

Police chief bans NF arch through Ilford

National Front's planned march through east London, on Saturday has been banned by a two-month ban on London public demonstrations, announced yesterday by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. The ban is substituting a mass canvass march in connexion with the Ilford, by-election.

Supporters to hold 'mass canvass'

Supporters of the National Front are to hold a mass canvass march in the Ilford area, east of London, on Saturday. The march, which is being organised by the Ilford branch of the party, is being held in place of the original march through the town, which has been banned by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. The Commissioner, Sir David Mason, said that the march would be a "mass canvass" and that the party would be using the opportunity to canvass for its candidates in the Ilford by-election.

The march is being organised by the Ilford branch of the party, which is led by Mr. Ian Haig, the party's national chairman. Mr. Haig said that the march was being held in place of the original march through the town, which has been banned by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. He said that the march would be a "mass canvass" and that the party would be using the opportunity to canvass for its candidates in the Ilford by-election.

Cairo severs diplomatic relations with Cyprus

From David Watts, Cairo, Feb 22

Sadat formally broke diplomatic relations with Cyprus today in a speech declaring that he no longer recognized the island as a sovereign state. "Our recognition of him as President of the republic, and he hears me now, is withdrawn as of today," Mr. Sadat said. He said that the Cyprus Government had failed to meet its obligations under the 1960 constitution and that he was therefore withdrawing recognition of the island as a sovereign state.

There is no room for us to deal with small men such as these," Mr. Sadat said, rejecting the offer of a summit meeting between the two leaders in a tough speech that left little room for compromise. There was nothing to talk about until "Cyprus hands over the hired killers," he said.

He admitted that the Cypriots had not given permission in advance for the commando operation, but added that they should not have acted in the way they did. The Egyptian leader said that it was his decision to use force to try to free the hostages and capture the gunmen, who are facing trial in Cyprus in a week's time. It was not the personal initiative of Brigadier Nabil Shukri, the leader of the commandos, he told the meeting in the War Ministry.



Firemen and council workmen pumping water from a street at Kingsbridge, Devon, yesterday.

Floods hit West as thaw sets in

From Annabel Ferviman, Exeter

Flooding came to the West Country yesterday as the tide rose and the thaw set in. Farms and villages on the rivers Torridge and Taw were particularly affected. The roads to North Tawton, which has one of the largest milk processing plants in north Devon, were also closed. The roads to North Tawton, which has one of the largest milk processing plants in north Devon, were also closed.

Villagers at Weare Giffard, on the Torridge, and North Tawton, on the Taw, were warned that they were in danger. Farmers on the Axe were told to move livestock to high ground. The high tide passed, however, without any reports of wide-scale flooding. There were many flooded fields throughout Devon, with nearly all rivers running at least at bank level, and many overflowing in places. The rivers Dart, Erme and Avon flooded fields and roads and some houses in Bideford had to be pumped out. Kingsbridge, south Devon, was worst affected with parts flooded to a depth of 7ft.

Meanwhile the slow process of clearing the rivers, which had reached 25ft in places, was continuing. Okehampton, with a population of 4,000, was opened up after five days of isolation and the police escorted lorry loads of fuel and supplies into the town. The road to North Tawton, which has one of the largest milk processing plants in north Devon, was also closed. The roads to North Tawton, which has one of the largest milk processing plants in north Devon, were also closed.

More than 8,000 Devon residents were still without electricity last night. Nine teams of electricians from the Midlands were working with staff from Cornwall and Bristol to restore the lines. A premature baby boy who was driven by Land Rover in a four-hour journey across the snow from Wells to Taunton, in Somerset, on Tuesday, died yesterday in hospital.

Mr. Denis Howell, minister with responsibility for coordinating assistance to the affected counties, who has travelled more than a hundred miles in the West Country, is to report to Mr. Callaghan today.

Train strike expected next week

By Christopher Thomas, Labour Reporter

It seems that a threatened 24-hour strike by train drivers next Wednesday will take place. After talks with the British Railways Board yesterday Mr. Ray Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) said: "It seems the strike is definitely on. The position is grim."

The meeting was also attended by leaders of the other two rail unions, but Mr. Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, walked out before it was over. ASLEF wants its members to receive extra bonus pay of between £2.50 and £6, in line with that secured by train stations and now, as a new responsibility, were required to examine tickets of passengers already on the train.

Mr. Rose said it had been clear that paying the bonuses to ASLEF was not a possibility. "As things stand it does not look good. We have tried to impress on ASLEF the importance of not disturbing the industry at a time when its fortunes are beginning to improve."

Missing cyanide

A police warning was issued yesterday about a missing cyanide, which could be highly dangerous if tampered with.

It was in a van, which travelled through south London, Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire on Monday and Tuesday.

Jury clears doctors who 'pulled plug'

A Bradford inquest jury decided that the death of Miss Caroline Wilkinson last year was caused by the attack that inflicted severe injuries on her, not by the doctors who took the decision to withdraw her life-support system. The verdict on Miss Wilkinson, aged 20, of Bradford, was that she was "lawfully killed by a person or persons unknown".

The verdict will be a relief to the medical and legal professions, our Legal Correspondent writes. There had been some fear that the doctors who "pulled the plug" might have been seen as guilty. Miss Wilkinson's attacker has not yet been found.

Lady Listowel to pay £66,000

Judith Lady Listowel was ordered in the High Court to pay libel damages totalling £66,000 to Dr. Milton Obote, former President of Uganda, and two of his aides, who were accused in a book, *Amur*, written by her, of involvement in corruption and abuse of power.

Final conviction in LSD trials

A series of trials involving allegations of a network making and distributing LSD began drawing to a close when a woman doctor, the last of 31 defendants to face charges at Bristol Crown Court, was found guilty of conspiracy.

Spiritualist is cleared

Mr. Gordon Higginson, president of the National Spiritualists' Union, was cleared by an independent tribunal of memorising from a register of names of people in a congregation which he claimed to have divine or supernatural gifts.

Children seized in Namibia

Guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) abducted 119 Oramba pupils from a school in northern Namibia.

Return-to-work move at Speke

There are strong hopes that the 1,000 strike at British Leyland's Speke plant will end on Monday. The 2,000 workers from the Triumph plant are being called to a meeting tomorrow and will vote on a return to work.

Late goal beats England

West Germany beat England 2-1 in their football international in Munich, the winning goal scored five minutes from the end. At Hampden Park, Scotland beat Bulgaria 2-1. Nottingham Forest reached the League Cup final by beating Leeds United 4-2.

Sixty dismissed

Nearly sixty members of the National Union of Journalists employed by Cheshire County Newspapers were dismissed yesterday after refusing to call official sanctions imposed over a pay dispute.

Ulster protest

Thousands of workers took part in a protest in Northern Ireland against last Friday's IRA attack on a restaurant.

Rhodesia: The Rev Ndabaningi Sithole says in London that Britain is coming round to the idea of supporting an internal settlement

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Inquiry on Russians is rejected

By Staff Reporters

Mr. Owen, Foreign Secretary, yesterday rejected calls for an inquiry into the role of British ministers, civil servants and soldiers in the forcible repatriation of Russian refugees to the Soviet Union between 1945 and 1947.

Much disquiet has been aroused in Parliament and elsewhere by a recent book, *Victims of Yalta*, by Count Nikolai Tolstoy, and by disclosures in *The Times* from a file declassified in Washington last week about "Operation Keelhaul" in 1946.

Mr. Owen said at Commons question time that people involved who were still alive were free to comment on documents released under the 30-year rule. He hinted that a government inquiry into Foreign Office and War Office policy would be a matter for the Cabinet as a whole.

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Prosperity the problem at Getty museum

From Michael Legman, Los Angeles, Feb 22

The eight trustees of the richest museum in the world will meet here tomorrow hoping to resolve an increasingly burdensome problem. They have to decide how the J. Paul Getty Museum will spend the unobtainable flow of dollars which will soon be available to it under the terms of the oil tycoon's will.

The museum, which opened in 1974 will get an annuity of some \$50m (about £25m) from the \$700m endowment bequeathed by Mr. Getty, and the tax rules that govern non-profit organizations demand that at least 85 per cent of that he spent within five years.

How big a sum that can be gauged by the stir that was caused when it became known that the museum had \$5m for a fourth-century Greek bronze statue, one of the last purchases approved by Mr. Getty before his death in 1976. The trustees will have to make 10 such purchases a year to use up the bequest.

People in the fine art world worry that the injection of such enormous new spending power into the market could have an inflationary effect on prices. This worry is shared by the trustees, and by Stephen Garrett, the British architect who helped to build the museum and is now its director.

So oppressed does Mr. Garrett feel by the responsibility of dispensing so much largesse that he has gone to ground and refuses to talk to the press about it until final decisions are made.

Art acquisition at this high plane has always been a secretive business, for two main reasons. The first is that museum directors regard their objects as primarily having aesthetic rather than commercial value, and are often embarrassed to be seen grubbing in the marketplace.

The second reason is that, with such sums involved, an indiscreetly dropped hint that a wealthy buyer is interested could add several hundred thousand dollars to the cost of an item. Last month Mr. Garrett said that, in making purchases, the museum would be careful not to distort the art market.

No matter how he handles it, the fact remains that a large number of the world's most precious objects will find their way to southern California. There will be insufficient room for them in the present museum, a modern replica of a Roman villa, overlooking the Pacific a few miles north of Los Angeles.

One of the options the trustees are considering is to build a new museum nearer the centre of Los Angeles. The Greek and Roman antiquities would stay in their natural surroundings at the present museum, while the collections of European paintings and French eighteenth-century decorative objects would move to the new building.

The museum is getting some 300,000 visitors a year, but many more would be attracted to a museum nearer Los Angeles.

Dysentery makes village healer see red

In the Sulla district of Bangladesh, where many of the population never meet a doctor, people rely heavily on village healers to treat their most common illnesses: dysentery, diarrhoea and fever.

Village healers are often illiterate women. But they have been specially trained in an Oxfam-backed project which enables them to make simple diagnoses.

The village healer asks the patient questions in a set pattern. Answers guide the healer to one of six colours on a chart, each denoting a particular illness.

Dysentery is red. Medicines are then dispensed on the spot from colour-linked packs.

Common diseases

Village healers spend one week training alongside trained health workers after which they return to their own villages. They are then able to treat common diseases and give advice on nutrition and child care.

The value of these healers in remote areas is enormous. Many poor communities have the ability and determination to help themselves in similar ways, but lack even the small amounts of money and technical know-how needed to start them off.

Wherever possible, Oxfam provides funds to help finance worthwhile projects like this.

Gutenberg Bible expected to be auctioned for \$1m

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A complete copy of the Gutenberg Bible is to appear at auction for the first time in over half a century. It is to be sold by Christie's New York on April 7 and is expected to make at least \$1m.

The great Bible, printed by Johann Gutenberg and his partner Johann Fust in the 1450s, was the first substantial book printed with movable type in Europe. Only 21 complete copies have survived and that one to be offered is one of 13 copies of the first issue where the number of lines per column varies between 40, 41 and 42.

It is printed on paper (some were on vellum) and has a few illuminated initials added by hand. It has been consigned for sale by the General Theological Seminary of New York City to whose library it was presented in 1896 by the Very Rev. Eugene Augustus Hoffman. The seminary, whose library is one of the finest in the United States, wishes to establish an endowment fund for the library.

The last complete Gutenberg Bible to be sold at auction appeared at the Anderson Galleries in New York in 1926 and sold for \$106,000.

There is, however, another copy on the market in New York. It belongs to Mr. H. P. Kraus, the American book dealer and collector, and the asking price is \$2.5m.

Commons passes Scotland Bill by 40 votes

By Gary Corbridge, Tory Correspondent

Mr. Pym, Secretary of State for Scotland, seemed totally committed to the package. As the third reading got under way with three-line whips on both sides but with realistic expectations of full support from its followers, the Government made clear that the outcome was not an issue of confidence.

At the outset Mr. Millan, opening for the Government, accepted the inevitable and said there would be no attempt in the Lords to overturn or amend the various committee defeats.

The only exception, he said, could be with the change allowing Orkney and Shetland to opt out of the devolution proposals by voting against them in the referendum. Here, Mr. Millan said, that some of the effects would be unsatisfactory for the islanders, and after consultations the Government would want to propose amendments that would make the package more acceptable.

But, as Mr. Pym, leading for the Tories, launched into his opening attack, it was soon clear that the Opposition was far from certain whether it favoured devolving any realistic powers to the Scots. Mr. Pym has steered a difficult course between the guerrillas tactics of Mr. Edward Taylor, the shadow Scottish Secretary, who seldom disguises his dislike of everything devolutionary, and Mr. Buchan-Smith, his predecessor, who left the Tory bench because of his support for the legislation.

Yesterday Mr. Pym argued that because the House was so profoundly uneasy about this measure, a better way to improve the government of Scotland should be sought. The Bill was founded on expediency and Parliament had failed the nation. He urged an all-party conference to hammer out an agreed policy.

As Mr. Pym asked whether Scotland would want to exchange an effective voice at the Cabinet table for an ineffective assembly in Scotland, there was a loud shout of "yes" from Mrs. Ewing, the Scottish Nationalist Party report, page 6
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HOME NEWS

Girl's death caused by attack, not hospital switch-off, jury rules

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

An inquest jury at Bradford yesterday decided that the death of a woman of 20 last year was caused by the attacker who had inflicted severe injuries on her, not by the doctors who had taken the decision to withdraw her life support system.

The verdict on Miss Carole Wilkinson, of Ranelagh Avenue, Bradford, that she was "unlawfully killed by a person or persons unknown" has come as a relief to the legal and medical professions. There had been some fear that the verdict would point to the doctors as the guilty persons, because of their act in "pulling out the plug" that was keeping her breathing.

As it is, the jury has backed the doctors' decision by saying, in effect, that the proximate cause of Miss Wilkinson's death was the attack on her, and that there was no new intervening cause.

Mr James Turnbull, the coroner, said the jury's decision was "entirely proper. It would be intolerable if doctors in the height of making quick decisions were to be looking over their shoulders in a defensive way."

Miss Wilkinson was taken to Bradford Royal Infirmary on

October 10 last year after being found battered and sexually assaulted in a lonely lane near her home. Her attacker has not yet been found, in spite of intensive inquiries.

The jury was told that when she was admitted to hospital she was unconscious and suffering from severe head injuries. She was kept breathing by a ventilator.

Mr Alos Nervos, the hospital's senior orthopaedic registrar, said that when he first examined Miss Wilkinson, the prognosis was extremely poor. "I was as certain as could be that recovery would not take place," he said.

Professor David Gee, a pathologist, said that he saw the girl when she was admitted and again two days later. She was in the same condition, still being maintained by artificial respiration. Various tests had shown no brain activity.

On the evening of October 12, after a final test, the clinical decision was taken to stop the ventilating machine. "By that time in my view it was clear there was no chance of recovery," Professor Gee said.

The jury's verdict accords with legal doctrine, and with the now almost universally accepted medical definition of death as being the absence of any brain activity.

Labour opinion polls will start with Scotland

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

The Labour Party is gearing itself for a possible general election in October by organizing confidential public opinion polls.

They will be Labour's first since the election of October, 1974, whereas the Conservatives have constantly organized private polls.

Labour Party organizers, aware that the result of the next election might turn on Scottish votes, will conduct the first poll north of the border. It is expected to take place next week.

Scots will be asked in particular their views on the Government's devolution plans, an issue of great interest to ministers, particularly after the setback last week when a Labour backbench rebellion succeeded in incorporating into the Scotland Bill a referendum provision that at least two fifths of the electorate must vote "Yes" for the plan.

The result of the private poll, which is expected to include questions on the Government's handling of the economy and its attitude towards Scotland, will have more immediate

relevance than the possibility of an early general election.

Just over the political horizon, Labour faces a by-election in Glasgow, Govan, which will be seen as a test of the devolution plans. The Scottish National Party needs a 10 per cent swing to overturn Labour's majority.

Labour's national executive committee yesterday decided to spend £50,000 on private polling, despite some opposition on the ground that it was wasted money. About £10,000 of the total will be held in reserve for daily polling during the general election campaign.

Opponents of the private poll, who now include Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, argue that it produces little knowledge that cannot be gleaned from the opinion polls that are made public.

The Labour Party, in fact, is a subscriber for a nominal sum, to the findings of Gallup and National Opinion Polls.

Supporters of private polling, however, insist that it is relevant because such surveys enable the party to ask questions that might not be found in those that are published.

Doctor in LSD plot trial found guilty

An unprecedented series of drug trials involving allegations of a worldwide LSD making and distributing network based in Britain, began drawing to a close at Bristol Crown Court yesterday with a jury's verdict on a woman doctor.

Dr Christine Bott, aged 31, was the last of 31 defendants to face charges arising out of "Operation Julie", a 14-month police operation that resulted in many arrests and the seizure of drugs said to be worth millions of pounds.

Dr Bott, of Tregaron, Dyfed, was found guilty on a majority verdict of conspiring to possess LSD and to aid and abet its possession by others.

She and Brian Cuthbertson, aged 29, of Fortis Green, London, were both sentenced to 18 months in custody to be sentenced later. Mr Cuthbertson was acquitted by the jury on similar charges, but had earlier pleaded guilty to conspiring to produce and possess LSD, possessing it with intent to supply, and possessing cannabis resin.

On Monday next Mr Justice Park, who has presided at all the trials, which began on January 12, will begin hearing speeches concerning sentences in the cases. The other 14 have already received prison terms ranging from one year to eight years.

Dr Bott had told the jury that she believed LSD was medically useful. It was alleged that she told the police that the drug was "fantastic" and "lifted the veil to greater awareness."

The prosecution alleged that she became involved in the plot through her lover, Richard Hillary Kemp, aged 33, a chemist, and had acted as banker for the plot. It was alleged that she handled money used to buy a manor house in Wales, Plas Llysoy, which was turned into an LSD factory.

Dr Bott told the court that although she knew her lover was making and selling LSD between 1971 and 1973 and they were both living off the proceeds she never helped or became involved in the plot.

Mr Kemp, who has pleaded guilty to conspiring to possess, produce and supply LSD and to aid and abet its possession by others and to possessing 1,222 grams of the drug, also faces sentence.

Man killed in fire

Mr John Lowe, aged 78, was killed when his house in Peaches Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, yesterday. Rescue attempts by neighbours were foiled by smoke and heat.

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Damages of £66,000 against Lady Listowel

Libel damages of £66,000 were awarded against Judith Lady Listowel by a jury in the High Court yesterday over her biography of President Amin of Uganda.

The award was to Dr Milton Obote, the deposed President of Uganda, and two of his aides, who were accused in the book of corruption and abuse of power.

Lady Listowel, aged 73, who had told the court that she had only limited means, is faced also with a bill for legal costs of the action, unofficially estimated at £15,000. Her legal adviser said her only choice was to offer to pay the damages in monthly instalments or go bankrupt.

Mr Justice Melford Stevenson granted a 21-day stay on the award pending a possible appeal.

Lady Listowel admitted that her book, *Amin*, written in 1973 in only six weeks for the Irish University Press, now in liquidation, contained a series of libels. Before the three-day hearing began she had paid a total of £450 into court as an offer of settlement.

After a three-hour retirement



Lady Listowel: Worked under intense pressure.



Dr Obote: Deposed by General Amin.

the jury awarded Dr Obote £40,000, Mr Akbar Nekron, his former planning minister, £8,500, and Mr Akana Adoko, his former general service officer, £17,500.

Lady Listowel, of Halsey Street, Chelsea, told the jury that her only income was from

writing. She had written eight books and done much journalistic work. Her next job was an assignment in Kuwait.

She had been asked to write the *Amin* biography during 1972 and had been given a November deadline, only six weeks off. "I was offered a good fee and

needed the money," she said. She compiled the book without proper research, working under intense pressure from her publishers for up to 18 hours a day. Her sources were newspaper reports and journalists, businessmen and senior officials connected with East Africa.

Usually she sent her books to her own solicitor for scrutiny, but, despite her objections, the publishers had insisted that their own lawyers in Dublin should read it.

In his summing-up Mr Justice Melford Stevenson told the jury: "This book bears all the marks of having been done in a tearing hurry. That may well have a lot to do with why we are here now. But the book was not written with malice. 'You are not dealing with a vindictive woman out to do harm', he told the jury, which included four women. Lady Listowel's inability to pay was no reason to reduce damages, 'but you must use your common sense'.

During the court hearing Dr Obote accepted an apology from Lady Listowel, but Mr Adoko would not. Mr Nekron did not come to Britain for the hearing.

Ministry man forces out price of tea

By Alan Hamilton

The Department of Prices and Consumer Protection last night announced its intention to use its statutory powers to reduce retail prices of tea if the main suppliers refuse to accept the recommendations of this week's report by the Price Commission which said that tea prices were too high.

Four of the main blenders, Brooke Bond Oxo, Lyons, Tetley, Typhoo and the Co-Operative Wholesale Society, said yesterday that there was no justification for a price reduction and that they could not remain viable at the shelf prices suggested in the report, which said that tea priced at 27p a quarter-pound could be sold for 22p or less.

Mr Haremsley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has called in the blenders to explain themselves; they will tell him that the figures upon which his commission's report is based are out of date and that the price of tea on the shelves has been significantly and progressively reduced during the past six months.

The four big blenders said in a joint statement that independent surveys had shown that during December the average price of popular tea was 24.9p, whereas the Price Commission quoted 27.3p. "The report bases its findings on December auction costs. Since then these have been reduced by 8 pence a tea on the shelves and price suggestions based on December are no longer valid," the statement says.

Columnist was admired by King Faisal

The late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia had such a regard for the writings of Mr Gordon Fraser, the distinguished *Financial Times* columnist, that he ordered them to be translated into Arabic for him to read, Mr Peter Tappin, an opposition frontbencher, spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs said today.

Mr Tappin, MP for Horn-castle was giving evidence for Mr Tether on the twenty-sixth day of a London industrial tribunal's consideration of his reinstatement claim against the newspaper.

Mr Tether, aged 64, who wrote the *Lancet* column for 21 years, alleges that he was unfairly dismissed 16 months ago, after a long dispute with Mr M. H. (Marty) Fisher, the editor.

The columnist, Mr Tether said, was required reading for anyone, like himself, a stockbroker. "It was one of the things you had to read to earn a living in the City."

King Faisal told him a few days before his assassination that he regarded Mr Tether as better informed about Middle East financial and all matters than any other writer in the world.

Since Mr Tether left, the column had lost its character. Mr Tether told the tribunal that the nature of the column was implied in his contract to write an independent commentary ranging over finance, banking, economics, politics, and related subjects.

The directive Mr Fisher said was issued in 1974, stipulating that future articles must be confined to the general economic, financial and banking scene, with a special dispensation for the EEC issue, amounting to a breach of contract. The hearing continues today.

MPs to debate Windscale inquiry report

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

The Government has decided to find a way of allowing the Commons to debate the report of the inquiry into the plan to build a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Windscale.

An announcement of the arrangements for the publication of the inquiry report and for the Commons debate is expected to be made by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, in the next two weeks.

More than two hundred MPs of all parties have signed a Commons motion asking for the report and a debate, before Mr Shore makes his decision on the planning application.

When he spoke at a luncheon at the House of Commons yesterday, Mr Callaghan said he had read the report: "I find it most cogent and clear with well argued conclusions."

He said an important energy decision loomed ahead as a result of the inquiry.

The Government wanted to meet the desire of Parliament to debate it before a final decision was taken. That was why Mr Shore had been looking for a way that would enable that to be done.

"I also ask that parliamentary and public opinion should focus on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. This is one of the gravest problems facing the world, and it is made more difficult because of the overlap with the dissemination of knowledge about peaceful nuclear technology."

"Can international public opinion be harnessed to force governments to recognize that it is impossible and necessary to devise an international system whereby nations can enjoy the peaceful benefits of nuclear energy while placing severe obstacles in the way of weapons proliferation?" Mr Callaghan asked.

An exchange of letters made available to MPs last night shows that the United States Government feels that its views on nuclear fuel reprocessing were wrongly represented at the Windscale inquiry.

Dr Joseph S. Nye, Deputy Under Secretary of State, said in a letter to the Foreign Office in December: that United States policy had been misunderstood. "Our view, that it is not wise to build more solvent extraction reprocessing plants at this time, has not changed since we discussed the question during consultations last April."

Dr Nye said that for several reasons the United States was not prepared at this time to encourage reprocessing, to decide in favour of proceeding with new reprocessing plants.

"Thus, while we will continue to consider MB-10 requests [MB-10 is the number of the form issued by the United States Government to United States nuclear power station owners for the transfer of nuclear materials supplied by the United States Government] on a case-by-case basis, and grant them in cases where there is a demonstrated need, such as inadequate spent fuel storage capacity, we cannot give any assurance that British Nuclear Fuels Ltd may count on MB-10s as a matter of course for feed for a new plant or in support of long-term reprocessing commitments that it may enter into."

A letter from Mr P. H. Moberly, Assistant Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office, to Dr Nye records that it had been helpful to get the reassurance of United States policy.

He says: "Having reread the excerpt from the transcript of the inquiry, we would not agree that it is likely to convey a wrong expression..."

On behalf of the innocent living I demand protection. One two hours earlier in another part of the city the Provisional IRA had once again demonstrated its declared intention to continue with the campaign of violence against the overwhelming public condemnation that has followed its attack on La Mon House. A concealed booby-trap device exploded as an army foot patrol passed, slightly injuring one soldier. The other 12 La Mon victims were staged in different parts of Ulster, the message from pulpits was similar: impassioned demands for sterner security measures, accompanied by outspoken criticism of the IRA.

Judge gives warning of law of jungle

Judge Lawson, QC, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that if courts did not crack down on crimes of violence the law of the jungle would spread through London. The public must be protected from bestial conduct," he said.

He was speaking at the end of a trial in which three men and a girl were convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Mr Dennis Nicholson, aged 34, a Jamaican, of Homerton High Street, London.

Terrence Hoffman, aged 20, unemployed, of Frampton Park Estate, Hackney, was jailed for 10 years; Trevor David, aged 19, unemployed, of Martello Street, Hackney, for seven years; Gene Benjamin, aged 20, a factory worker, of Petherton Road, Highbury, for six years; and Carol Thompson, aged 18, a hairdresser, of Prince of Wales Road, Kenning Town, for three years. They had all pleaded not guilty and self-defence.

The prosecution said Mr Hoffman fractured Mr Nicholson's skull with a hammer then crashed a knife on to his hand. Mr Nicholson now has an artificial limb.

MP's action over Crossman diary

Mr Andrew Faulds, aged 54, the actor and Labour MP of Stratford-on-Avon, is claiming libel damages over allegations in the third volume of the *Crossman Diaries*.

He has issued a High Court writ against the publishers, Hamish Hamilton Ltd, Jonathan Cape Ltd, and Janet Morgan, the editor. He maintains that a passage in the book holds him up to ridicule and is defamatory.

Corrections

Reconstruction of parts of Brighton Pavilion in glass-fibre was begun in 1964; not 1974 as stated in *The Times* on February 1. The work was finished in 1969, and since then no further glass-fibre restoration work has been carried out.

Stanley Reynolds, in his review of the BBC 2 programme *Was It Before*, brought in the date of the early editions of the *Arts* page of February 13, suggested that Sir Hugh Greene and Jonathan Dimbleby took part in a studio discussion. Neither of those gentlemen participated in the debate chaired by Ludovic Kennedy.

Ulster workers protest over IRA attack

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Industry and commerce came to a standstill in many parts of Northern Ireland for a time yesterday as thousands of workers took part in a co-ordinated protest against last Friday's IRA attack on the La Mon House restaurant, which claimed 12 lives.

The day of mourning called for by leaders of the majority Protestant population was the biggest demonstration of solidarity seen in the province since the abortive "loyalist" strike 10 months ago. Significantly, it was accompanied by statements from extreme loyalist groups that have not been heard of publicly since the strike was defeated last May.

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington

Mr Lynch, the Irish Prime Minister, has written a strongly critical letter to Congressman Mario Biaggi, of New York, accusing him of seriously misrepresenting the Irish Government's policy towards Northern Ireland.

Mr Biaggi has set up an "ad hoc committee on Ireland" which claims to have 92 Congressmen as members. The numbers are less impressive than they sound: Mr Biaggi's office says that about thirty Irish-American Congressmen are among the committee's members and it cites Mr Michael Harrington, of Massachusetts, as an active member.

Mr Harrington's office firmly declines the honour, however.

US congressman accused of misrepresentation

He put his name to the committee because such gestures go down well with his Irish constituents, but he has little time for Mr Biaggi's ideas. He supports instead those of Mr Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House. Senators Moynihan and Kennedy, and Governor Carey of New York, who have denounced the IRA, root and branch.

Mr Lynch's letter was a reply to one from Mr Biaggi, who had apparently misinterpreted an interview the Prime Minister gave at the new year. Mr Biaggi thought Mr Lynch had called for a British declaration of intent to withdraw from the north and commended him for the statement, saying that the indefinite presence of British troops in Northern Ireland was an obstacle to peace.

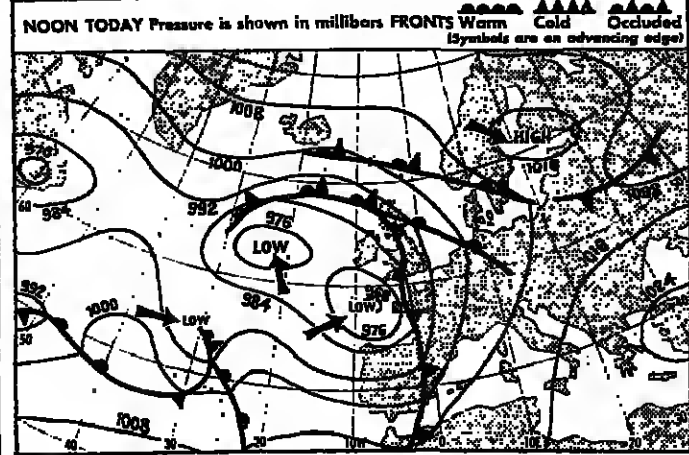
Prince calls for preservation of great cathedrals

By a Staff Reporter

The Prince of Wales said last night that Britain's great cathedrals need to be cared for.

Speaking at a reception at St James's Palace for the preservation of the Wells Cathedral, he said: "Many of our cathedrals are artistic masterpieces erected with a love and a devotion that you do not see nowadays. It will be a great tragedy if we do not take our responsibilities seriously, and allow them to disintegrate and die."

The appeal for £1m to save the west front of Wells has so far raised £820,000. Because of inflation, however, about £2m will be needed to do the job properly.



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded

Cloudy, rain later, wind SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Central S.W. England, Channel Islands: Cloudy, rain at times; wind SE, fresh, veering SW, moderate later; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Ireland: Cloudy, rain at times; wind SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).

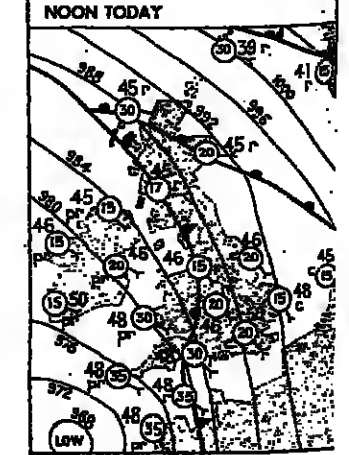
NE England, Borders: Cloudy, a little rain at times; wind SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, moderate or fresh; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Startook for tomorrow and Saturday: Unsettled, showers or longer periods of rain but bright intervals; temp near or somewhat above normal.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: C, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; snow.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Birmingham	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Manchester	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Cardiff	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Belfast	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Edinburgh	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Glasgow	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Aberdeen	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Dundee	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Orkney	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Shetland	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy



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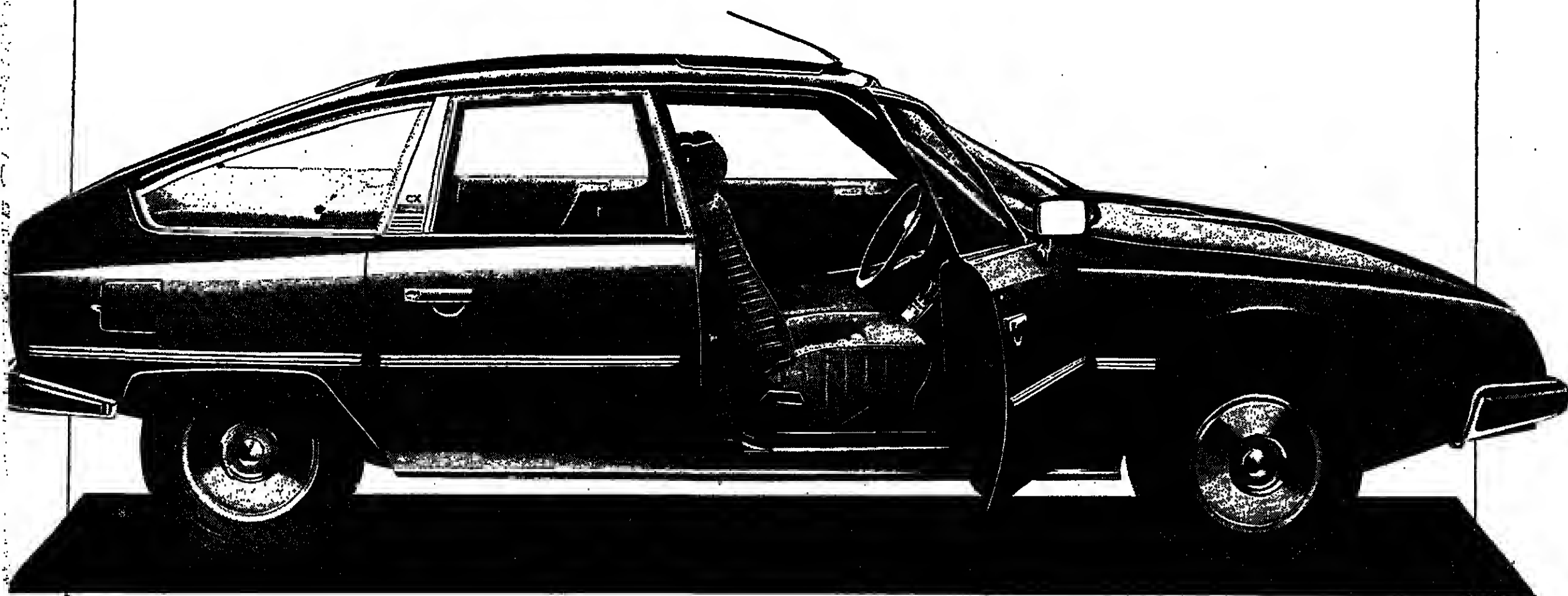
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Aberdeen	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Dundee	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Orkney	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy
Shetland	10	SE	Cloudy	10	SE	Cloudy

FOR A SELECTION OF NEW AND USED CITROEN CARS SEE TODAY'S CLASSIFIED CAR BUYERS' GUIDE ON PAGE 28

هكذا مثلاً الأصل

CITROËN CX. A NICE PLACE TO GO HOME IN.



Illustrated CX 2400 Pallas with optional sun roof.

In a life increasingly dominated by schedules, deadlines, traffic jams, parking restrictions and general bureaucratic insanity, the Citroën CX brings a welcome release from the pressures of the day.

Its seats are as inviting as your favourite armchair, hugging as if moulded to the very shape of your body. Their design gives excellent back and leg support. However long the journey, driver and passengers are comfortable and arrive relaxed without feeling any need to stretch their legs or flex their muscles.

SMOOTH.

Whatever price you pay for a car you will not buy a suspension superior to Citroën's unique hydropneumatic system. It keeps the car perfectly level however much you load it. The ride in a CX remains delightfully smooth all the way home with the hydropneumatic suspension absorbing any unexpected road shocks.

A bonus to all this is the comforting knowledge that if you had a blowout on the motorway Citroën's hydropneumatic suspension would automatically adjust to maintain directional stability and keep the car safely under control.

Further reassurance is provided by Citroën's VariPower steering. It prevents wheels being deflected by road surface irregularities and grows pro-

gressively firmer with increasing speed so that the driver always remains in complete control.

At low speeds and for parking, the steering is fingerlight, and power returns to a straight line position immediately the steering wheel is released. No other car has a steering which can match it.

QUIET.

Quietness is yet another feature of the CX, due principally to the aerodynamic styling which reduces wind noise by allowing the wind to sweep over, under and around the car. A high level of sound insulation makes a further contribution to quietness in the CX by reducing road noise.

It also bears mentioning that the wind cheating aerodynamic lines of the CX result in improved performance and reduced fuel consumption with the CX Pallas returning a pleasantly surprising 39mpg at a constant 56mph. A further benefit of aerodynamic design is demonstrated by the increased stability of the car at high speeds.

As you'd expect, the fittings on such a car leave little to be desired. All considered, an extremely nice place to be. In a sea of chaos, an island of calm.

CX comfort starts at £4636.71

for the CX 2000. The range extends up to the luxurious, longer wheelbase CX Prestige Injection C-matic at £8640.45 and offers a choice of engines (carburettor or fuel injection) and manual or C-matic transmission. All CX models have recommended service intervals of 10,000 miles and have a 12 months' guarantee. The suspension is guaranteed for 2 years (max: 65,000 miles).

Prices include car tax, VAT and inertia reel seat belts but exclude number plates. Delivery charge £68.04 (inc. VAT). Prices are correct at time of going to press.

Please enquire about our Personal Export, H.M. Forces and Diplomatic schemes and Preferential Finance scheme. Check the Yellow Pages for the name and address of your nearest dealer. Citroën Cars Ltd, Mill Street, Slough SL2 5DE. Telephone: Slough 23808.

A selection of the 16 models in the CX range.

Model	Top speed	Price
CX 2000	109mph	£4636.71
CX 2400 Super (5 speed)	112mph	£5427.63
CX 2400 Pallas Injection (C-matic)	112mph	£6597.63
CX 2400 GTi (5 speed, Injection)	118mph	£6580.08
CX 2400 Safari Estate	109mph	£5575.05
CX 2400 Familiale	109mph	£5678.01
CX Prestige Injection (C-matic)	112mph	£8640.45

CITROËN CX. A WORLD OF COMFORT.

HOME NEWS

Deaths are increasing among people born in New Commonwealth

By Pat Healy

Deaths among people born in New Commonwealth countries but living in England and Wales are rising against the overall downward trend. Even in 1976, when total deaths rose for the first time in five years because of an influenza epidemic, the proportion continued to rise.

The figures, released by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) yesterday, analyse death registrations by birthplace over the five years 1972 to 1976. They show that while the numbers of deaths among native-born people have been falling those among people born in the New Commonwealth have been steadily rising.

The OPCS emphasizes that birthplace is not the same as ethnic origin, since some people born in the New Commonwealth will have been the white children of colonial officials. But they also point out that the New Commonwealth population is a comparatively young one and fewer deaths would be expected within it.

Overall, the number of deaths has fallen from 591,889 in 1972 to a provisional figure of

575,485 in 1977. The 1977 figure is 23,000 below the 1976 figure, when 25,000 people, mainly elderly, died during the influenza epidemic.

Deaths among people born in the New Commonwealth have been rising both in absolute numbers and in relation to the rest of the population. In 1972 deaths among the group totalled 4,913, representing 4 per cent of deaths registered in England and Wales. In 1976 the number of deaths had risen to 5,648, the proportion of total deaths rising to 4.4 per cent.

No clear explanation is available, but a report will be published by the OPCS in the summer on mortality rates of immigrants by country of birth, cause of death, social class and other factors. Part of the answer may be that the immigrant population is younger and healthier than the general population and that working class people from India and Pakistan have lower death rates than the home population. But professional people from those countries have a higher death rate than British-born professionals.

It is known that the immigrant population is younger and healthier than the general population and that working class people from India and Pakistan have lower death rates than the home population. But professional people from those countries have a higher death rate than British-born professionals.

Single-figure rate rises likely in conurbations

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Rate increases in the metropolitan areas of England should be within single figures for the coming year, Mr Thomas Caulcott, secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday. On a small sample received, it appeared likely that the increases would be slightly higher in areas outside London.

That indication is in line with the hopes of Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environ-

ment, for an average increase of less than a tenth in England and Wales.

It has already been announced by the Association of District Councils that its members' rates are likely to rise by 12 to 13 per cent. That is expected because of the shift of government resources towards the big cities.

Very few councils have been able to announce a reduction. Lewisham council has recommended to increase the rate by 9.5 per cent.

Newspaper 'entitled to be partisan'

By a Staff Reporter

A newspaper is entitled to act as an instrument of propaganda for any cause it chooses, the Press Council says today, rejecting a complaint against a full-scale editorial attack on the National Front and the National Party on the morning of last year's Greater London Council elections.

The council's judgment is a restatement of an earlier declaration on the right to be partisan. But it says the paper needs to be made again because it represents "an issue of importance, particularly in the present political climate".

The complaint had been brought against the *South East London and Kentish Mercury*, which devoted the whole of its front page and an inside page on the day of the elections to an attack on the National Front's "racist" policies. Fronters were advised not to vote for either party.

Mr Richard Humphries, of south-east London, said he held no brief for either party but claimed they were entitled to a right of reply. Yet that would have been of little use because the elections would have already voted.

Mr Roger Norman, the paper's editor, said the *Mercury* had worked towards improving race relations but he had been seriously concerned by a by-election in Deptford in 1976 when the two parties between them received more votes than the successful Labour candidate.

He added that a reporter who had gone on a canvass with a National Front candidate had confirmed fears that the National Front in particular was seeking to gain votes on an anti-black platform. The most effective way to counter that was a front-page opinion article on the morning of the election.

In its adjudication, the council on election day, of all says a newspaper has the duty to express its convictions and political views forcefully.

Legislation throws paperwork burden on small firms

By John Young

"Every year I find myself fiddling around with more and more pieces of paperwork", a businessman complained recently. "And more often than not I find myself having to consult expensive firms of lawyers."

There is little doubt that much recent legislation, however well intentioned and perhaps necessary, has imposed a disproportionately heavy burden on small businesses. Few have the staff to cope with the paperwork, and many feel that new laws are actively working against the nation's prosperity.

A commonly cited example is the Employment Protection Act, which, laudable though its aims may be, has certainly discouraged many small firms from taking on extra temporary staff. For the building industry, in which much work is inevitably short-term or seasonal, it has been particularly onerous.

Even transfers of men from one site to another can, if you are not careful, be interpreted as redundancy. Mr Grenville Evans, of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, points out: "The

Department of Employment is pushing its case in more and more ways, but our biggest complaint is of interference from the civil servants but from the judiciary. The cost of going to employment tribunals in this industry is enormous."

Planning regulations inevitably occur repeatedly in conversation. Mr Roger Humber, of the House Builders Federation, says: "Most people in the industry would agree that, although there is much in planning legislation that is good and necessary, overall it has produced an excessive degree of bureaucracy."

The worst example is probably the development land tax, he adds. To illustrate his point, he produced an almost incomprehensible leaflet describing which, and how many, forms must be completed and submitted to the tax office in Middlesbrough whenever a piece of land is bought.

Taxation is not surprising, a frequent cause for complaint, but less for its incidence than for the complications it entails. Mr Christopher Ogle, of the Association of Independent Businesses, argues that the

Bureaucracy in Britain

paperwork involved in making VAT returns is becoming a nightmare.

"It is not so much the measure itself that we object to," he continues, "as the fact that it creates a climate of oppression, and the feeling among businessmen that the Government is overtly hostile to them. Inspectors have very far-reaching powers and, although some can be extremely helpful, others can be very awkward."

Another grievance is that company law, intended to force large concerns to disclose their affairs fully, is applied indiscriminately to all businesses. "It is not that we have anything to hide," Mr Ogle declares. "But, because of the extra work in-

volvement we do feel that there should be one set of regulations for publicly quoted companies, where investors' money is at stake, and another for private companies, which do not have the same responsibilities."

Farmers, according to Mr Richard Butler, of the National Farmers' Union, have grown increasingly used to government interference. "Some intervention is essential, and I do not think you can get away from that. On the whole we accept that, if there are grants to be paid for this and that, there are forms to be filled in, although after a hard day's work it is not much fun having to sit down for a couple of hours at your desk."

Some legislation, such as the Health and Safety at Work Act, and, inevitably, planning procedures, have created resentment, he says. "Wages inspectors always rile people but, although there are bloody-minded inspectors, there are also, bloody-minded farmers."

As far as doctors are concerned, Dr Brian Lewis, vice chairman of the British Medical Association, is in no doubt that

red tape is strangling efficiency. General practitioners are faced with an enormous amount of paperwork. "Some of it is inevitable, but I seriously wonder if things like certificates excusing people from work are really worth the effort."

Reorganization of the National Health Service, with its proliferation of committees, has been a disaster, he declares, because the roles of the various authorities have never been properly defined. As an example, he says that consent for a hospital to employ a temporary anaesthetist may require up to twelve separate recommendations and take anything up to two weeks to authorize.

Last year the BMA asked for more centralized direction, but was told that it was "not the policy of Her Majesty's Government."

"It is all meant very well, to be democratic and to provide checks and balances," Dr Lewis concludes. "But I venture to suggest that any fool could sit down and create a satisfactory system without going through all this nonsense."

Next: Civil servants' work

Glasgow is told to repay £3.7m rate aid

Finance officers of Glasgow City Council said yesterday that they were shocked to learn, only nine days before their annual budget, that the Government intends to reclaim £3.7m in rate-support grant.

Repayment of the grant, said to have been overpaid to the city in 1974-75, would mean that the council's rates, expected to be fixed at 25p in the pound, would need to rise to 26½p unless spending was cut.

New voice for children in care

A working group is to be set up by the Personal Social Services Council to encourage children in care to complain about unsatisfactory conditions and staff decisions.

Talks on more pay curbs denied

By Paul Routledge

Labour leaders yesterday denied involvement in talks with ministers on a possible fourth phase of income policy. They also increased demands for economic expansion to an annual target of 4.50m.

The developments at the TUC General Council were coupled with fresh hostility towards the EEC over Brussels' criticism of "unfair subsidies" to all British industries through state employment support.

The union gave warning of a clash that might have profound implications for United Kingdom relations with Europe.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said after the meeting: "We have not discussed with ministers any question of stage four." But he said they had turned them over the possible effect of speeches by ministers voicing thoughts about further wage restraint.

protesting too much, and hiding the contents of informal co-ordination talks with the Treasury on a punitive further round of income policy, it seems clear that talk of faltering nerve on the part of the Government is greatly exaggerated.

Dismissing reports about the previous day's meeting of the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee as "misrepresentation", he added: "There was a considered and constructive discussion of the whole range of action to be taken to reduce unemployment. Reports in some papers and on the radio of sharp conflicts at the meeting were totally inaccurate."

The general council confirmed the final draft of the TUC's 1978 Economic Review, which is to be published on Monday. It proposes an expansion package costing, on yesterday's estimates, £4,500m in a full year. The package will be put to the Chancellor as trade union representations for the April Budget.

On European criticism of the temporary employment subsidy, the TUC's Mr Murray said, Secretary of State for Employment, on Monday to press complaints about EEC "interference" in United Kingdom employment affairs.

Mr Murray said that the subsidy had been and remained of vital importance in the textile, clothing and footwear industries, three of those complained of. All had been badly damaged during the recession, he said. Any modification would create at least 100,000 more unemployed, the North-west being worst affected.

"The Government must make it clear to the [European] commission that it does not intend to modify the subsidy and leave the commission in no doubt that if they continue to press this matter they could well be precipitating a confrontation which will have profound implications for the relationship with the EEC," he said.

Campaign calls for vivisection study

By Ian Bradley

Eighteen thousand scientists are known to perform experiments on animals calculated to give pain, with only 14 Home Office inspectors to regulate them, Mr Andrew Bowden, Conservative MP for Brighton, Kemptown, said yesterday.

He was supporting a campaign launched by the National Anti-Vivisection Society for a royal commission to be set up to examine all aspects of the use of animals in scientific and medical research.

Seventy-nine per cent of those interviewed in a national Gallup Poll commissioned by the society thought that a commission should be set up. Mr Bowden presented to Parliament a petition signed by 250,000 people calling on the Government to investigate the moral and scientific justification for the continued use of animals for research.

He said the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, which controls the use of animals in experiments, was "an antiquated and useless act which fails to provide any proper protection." At the time the Act was passed only 300 animals a year were involved in experiments. The figure was now more than 5,500,000.

Mr Colin Smith, secretary-general of the Anti-Vivisection Society, said two-thirds of the experiments in which animals were used were for non-essential purposes such as the testing of cosmetics and food colouring agents.

The society wants the Government to investigate alternatives to the use of animals in medical and scientific research. It would like to see more use of cell tissue and organ culture techniques and of advanced mathematics and computers in testing drugs. Mr Smith said that in the Soviet Union tens of millions of vaccines were produced without experiments involving animals.

The society is encouraged by a statement made by the Prime Minister in the Commons last December. Mr Callaghan said that he hoped that the number of experiments using live animals could be reduced and alternatives developed soon.

Teaching jobs saved

Forty teaching jobs have been reprieved by Nottinghamshire County Council. It announced yesterday that £50,000 has been made available to retain all staff this year.

Clash between police chief and council committee

A clash of personalities between Mr George Moores, chairman of South Yorkshire Police Committee, and Mr Stanley Barratt, the chief constable, culminated in the blocking at yesterday's county council meeting of nearly £375,000 earmarked for pay increases for the county's 2,500 police officers.

Mr Moores made clear that money for the increases would be found elsewhere and that the withdrawal of a motion affecting the money along with a dozen others, was a gesture to let the chief constable know that the council also had considerable statutory authority.

Mr Moores explained yesterday that the police committee had told the chief constable that a crossing patrol was

needed at a junction in Barnsley. The chief constable had agreed to consider stationing a traffic warden at that spot but refused to give a definite undertaking, pointing out that the deployment of traffic wardens was his responsibility.

Mr Moores agreed that the South Yorkshire force was 94 per cent below its establishment of 2,760. He said withholding the £375,000 from the police vote was "peanuts" and added: "We have plenty of money in the police force. It would be a long, long time before it affected the policing of South Yorkshire." He said the council and the chief constable had agreed to disagree. "We shall probably have a meeting and sort it out in a few days."

Ban misleading bargain offers, minister advised

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Misleading bargain offers that customers cannot easily check should be banned by law, according to Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading.

In a recommendation submitted to Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, Mr Borrie suggests outright prohibition of "worth and value" claims such as "worth £36, only £19.95" and on offers quoting alleged prices elsewhere or using the phrase "up to" to magnify the apparent discount.

Mr Borrie says traders should be allowed to make bargain offer claims where the compar-

son of higher prices is likely to be helpful to the consumer, and can be substantiated. The use of offers to mislead should be a criminal offence in all cases.

Confusing claims led to complaints when consumers found that "bargain offers" were misleading. A potentially serious indirect effect is that, if they have experience of false bargains, consumers begin to suspect all bargain offers and therefore miss genuine reductions," he added.

"Worth and value" claims were objectionable because the consumer was faced with an unexplained and possibly entirely subjective assertion that the trader was offering a bargain.

26 new centres to aid consumers

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

There are to be 26 new consumer advice centres, financed by grants worth £300,000 announced by the Government in November. Announcing the response to the scheme yesterday, Mr Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said 46 applications for grants had been received.

Speaking at Southwark Consumer Advice Centre, London, he added: "The enormous response we have received reflects those who deny the value of consumer advice centres. The centres do meet a real need to help shopper and shopkeeper alike."

10,000 more to get allowance

About 10,000 more disabled people will be able to claim mobility allowance when the upper age limit is raised to 58 later this year, Mr Morris, Minister for the Disabled, announced yesterday. The present limit is 55.

Mobility allowance is a weekly benefit payable to people who are unable or virtually unable to walk because of physical disablement and are likely to remain so for at least 12 months. The benefit is £7 a week at present, but will increase to £10 a week in July.

School action deferred

The National Union of Teachers has deferred indefinitely sanctions that were due to begin in Northamptonshire schools this week, as the county authority has decided to avert cuts of about £3m originally planned for 1978-79.

£2.5m claim on John Poulson withdrawn

By a Staff Reporter

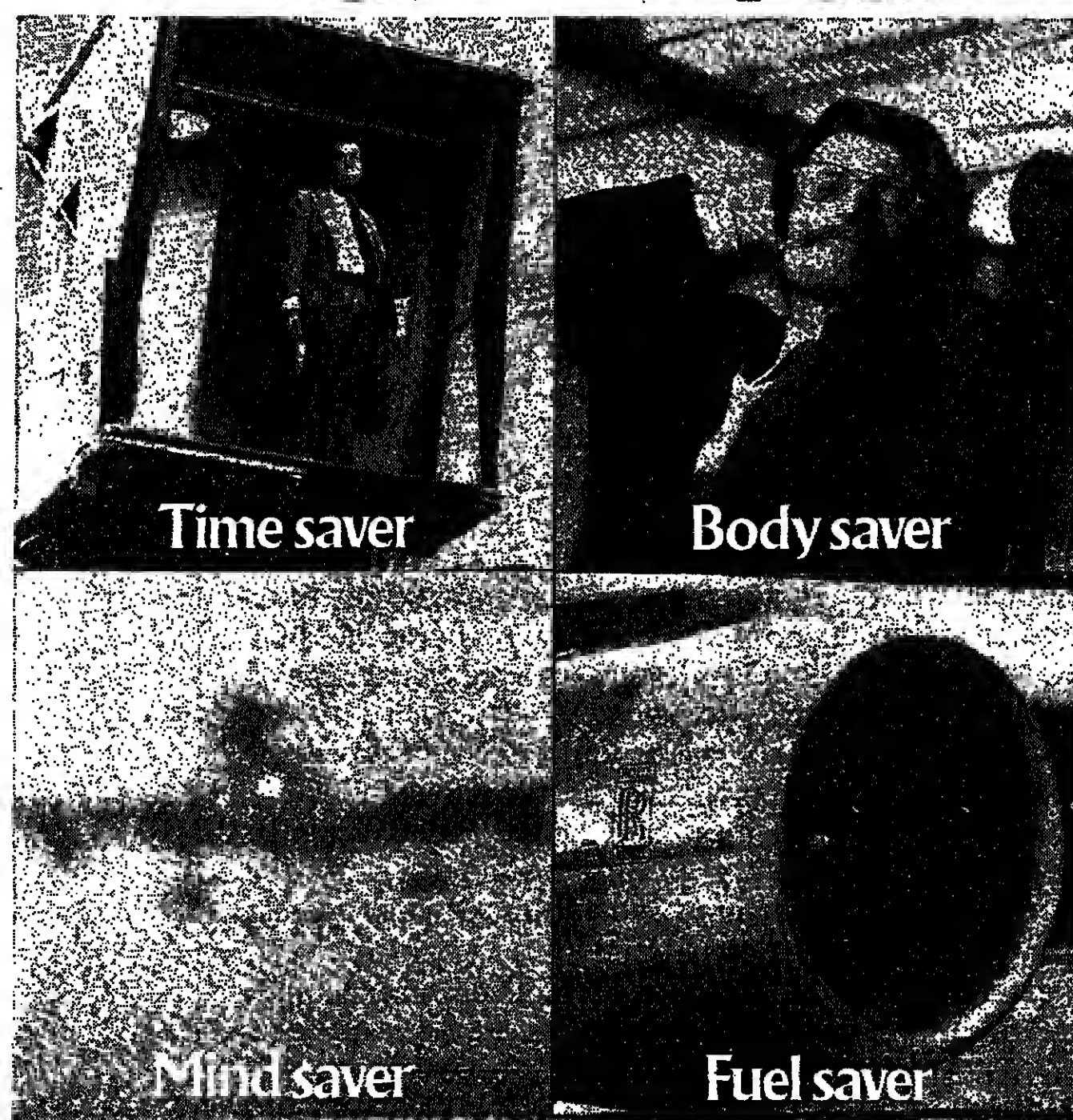
The withdrawal of a £2.5m health authority claim has meant that creditors of Mr John Poulson, the former architect, will receive a larger interim dividend than expected, amounting to 10p in the pound.

The claim against Mr Poulson, who was judged bankrupt in 1972, was lodged by the Mersey Regional Health Authority over defects in the Leighton district hospital at Crewe, designed by one of his firms.

Last month, however, the authority decided not to proceed with it on the ground of his insolvency. It is awaiting detailed estimates for repairs from architects, after a preliminary report suggesting that the defects might cost £13m to remedy.

The interim dividend has now been approved at a bankruptcy court. Other outstanding claims include £130,000 by Leeds City Council over defects in a swimming pool and £293,109 by the Inland Revenue. Assets of £223,759 have been collected by the trustee in bankruptcy. The final dividend, it is hoped, will be paid later this year.

The Lockheed L-1011 TriStar



Time saver

Body saver

Mind saver

Fuel saver

To begin with, the L-1011 TriStar is noted for leaving on time. So don't be late for a TriStar flight. You may be left standing at the gate.

Then there's the way the wide body TriStar saves wear and tear on your body. There's plenty of stretch-out and walking-around room. Even people in window seats can stand up without hunching. When you turn the air outlet, you get fresh, not recirculated, air. Those outlets—plus all the other comfort controls—are at your fingertips. You don't have to reach for them. Not last, and certainly not least, gentle, eye-easing indirect light bathes TriStar's cabin.

Your mind's at rest too, thanks to the many advanced technological features built into TriStar. The Flying Tail that gives the pilot more control. The exclusive Direct Lift Control that spares you the ups and downs you experience on other planes

during landing approaches. And the Autoland system that enables TriStar to land in zero visibility at some airports when other jetliners are being turned away—and provides the gentlest of landings in good weather or bad.

It's also comforting to know that TriStar is the world's quietest big jet, as certified by the U.S. government. And that you've helped save fuel by flying TriStar. It uses far less fuel per passenger than older jets.

For your next trip, have your travel agent put you on a TriStar. It spares the fuel but not the comfort.

The wide body beautiful.



هكذا من الاجل

ME NEWS

Skateboards
easier to
make than
side

By Young
of Affairs
indent
business of making skate-
boards more dangerous than
paralytic simple matter
them, it emerged yester-
day from a London seminar on
road manufacturing tech-

Components for the cast-
urethane wheels which make
parts for skateboards
suspected carcinogen,
use has been carefully
checked by the factory in-
dustries for the past 20 years,
substance whose effects
on children can be so pro-
nounced that people have
been known to collapse at
once when it has been opened
up.

It is with these unpleasant
effects processing workers
wear rubber face masks,
and cause sores, dermati-
tis, cancer and other con-

ditions to the raw materials
board components in
the industry as pro-
found ailments, such
as colds, by a month or
more.

With Worthington, of the
and Plastics Research
Institute, said that in pro-
cessing there are so many
chemical reactions
that at once that we can
now for certain what is
going on. Some of the sub-
stances are extremely dan-
gerous.

Paul Dollimore, produc-
tion director of Basemore,
which supplies wheels
to the British poly-
urethane industry by at least
100,000 a week, said that
many small
processors were still at
stake and spade "stage"
the polyurethane
with workers ex-
posed to high concentrations
of the substance in the
ere.

process in industry has
been tamed. We are in busi-
ness to make money as best we
can, but we simply have to be
careful and sensible as we
go about it.

Liquid Control, the
company organizing
the seminar, said that
the seminar was for
mixing, measuring
and packaging the components
of polyurethane mini-
mizers' obvious contact
with the substance
machines had also now
been tamed with tempera-
ture controls, which would
sound the alarm and shut
down the process if the
temperature rose above
the safe level.



Giant of steam: Susco Cudick, of East
Grafton, Wiltshire, in period costume,
looking at the 18ft flywheel of the 40-ton
pumping engine that was used to supply
water to Northampton for 80 years. A
dinosaur of the industrial revolution, the
engine was brought back to life yesterday
in its new home at Kew Bridge Pumping
Station, Brentford, now a steam museum
(Philip Howard writes). It was built at
Cliftonville, Northampton, in 1863 by
Easton & Amos, and its rotative beam
engine was one of the miracles of con-

temporary technology. In 1943 it was put into
reserve, and it was scheduled for demoli-
tion in 1973. Instead, Northampton
Borough Council gave it to the Kew Bridge
Engines Trust. Members of the trust took
it to Kew and re-erected it under the
direction of Mr Ronald Plaster, the resi-
dent chief engineer. Yesterday it was set
in motion for the first time by Mr J. R.
Pearce, chairman of the trustees, and
recreation committee of Thames Water
Authority. Devotees of steam will find
poetry in the incantation of the mere statis-

tics of the twin-cylinder Woolf compound
engine. The high pressure cylinder has a
16-inch bore by 4-inch stroke; the low
pressure cylinder has a 30-inch bore by
60-inch stroke. The beam has an operat-
ing length of 15ft from the centre line
of the low pressure cylinder to the centre
of the connecting rod. But even those who
are lukewarm about such statistics can
find fascination in the stride of the
connecting rod, power in the mighty
wheel, and a wonderful beauty in the
ancient warrior of steam.

Trinity House
men threaten
action over pay

By Our Labour Staff

The Merchant Navy and Air-
line Officers' Association plans
protest action that could dis-
rupt the piloting of ships up
rivers and into English ports.

The action, by officers em-
ployed by Trinity House, would
be in support of a productivity
deal of 12.5 to 15.5 per cent,
which they say was due to them
under a pay settlement last
year.

Action is also planned by 67
officers who work on Post Office
cable repair ships in support
of the productivity deal. Other
planned action could disrupt the
second stage of a change in the
buoyage system due to come
into force on April 1.

Guide says conveyancing
need cost only £13

By Robert Parker

A new guide on home buying,
published yesterday, says solici-
tors' fees of about £250 can be
eliminated and a buyer doing
his own conveyancing work can
complete the whole transaction
for about £13.

The book, published by the
Homes Organization, a firm of
conveyancers, was
launched at a House of Com-
mons press conference by Mr
Christopher Price, Labour MP
for Lewisham, West. He said
he hoped it would help to break
the grip that the solicitors'
monopoly has on the conveyanc-
ing market.

Mr John Watson, managing
director of the Homes Organi-
zation, said he thought the new
book should enable any normal
person to carry out his own
house purchase. The book costs

£4.95 and the Homes Organi-
zation provides a back-up service
of advice and help for £5.

Mr Watson said that, with the
cost of postage and forms, would
mean a cost of about £13 to a
person doing his own conveyanc-
ing.

Mr Price said the Homes
Organization had been "pur-
sued" by the Law Society to
try to protect the monopoly of
solicitors. He hoped the book's
publication would maintain
pressure on the Royal Commis-
sion on the Legal Profession,
set up two years ago.

He said it had been intended
that the commission should
make an early report on con-
veyancing, but that had not
happened.

How to buy your property with-
out a solicitor (Homes Organi-
zation, 4 Passy Place, Eltham High
Street, London, SE9 5DQ, £4.95).

TUC calls for
urgent inquiry
on fast reactor

By Our Labour Editor

The TUC is pressing Mr
Benn, Secretary of State for
Energy, to set up an inquiry
into the need for a commercial
fast reactor as a matter of
urgency. The minister told the
TUC's fuel and power industries
committee that the Government
would hold an inquiry soon,
finishing by the end of the year.

Delay is threatened because
the Government would have to
approve the project in principle
before a planning application
could be made.

The TUC wants to commit
the Government to a commer-
cial fast reactor and to set up
an inquiry as soon as possible.
It argues that Britain will need
the option of ordering more
fast-breeder reactors in the late
1990s when energy supplies will
be scarce.

Russian Mennonites won right to go to Paraguay

Refugees saved from repatriation

By Peter Heessy
and John Crossland

One of the few happy stories
to emerge from the Keelhaul
file, declassified last week by
the United States Government,
is the saving of Russian
Mennonites stranded as refugees
in camps in northern Italy
after the Second World War.
The Mennonites are a non-
violent Protestant sect.

The number rescued from
forcible repatriation is not
known. Count Nikolai Tolstoy,
in his recent book *Victims of
Yalta*, writes of "thousands of
Mennonite refugees" saved in
the United States zone of Ger-
many after forcible repatriation
had ended in 1947.

Allied Forces Headquarters,

Mediterranean, did not regard
them as liable for repatriation
under the Yalta Agreement.
They were to be resettled in
Paraguay. A headquarters docu-
ment dated December 4, 1946,
reads:

Reference is your WX-89544 of
December 20, 1945. Subject is
repatriation of Soviet citizens
who are subject to forcible
repatriation under the Yalta
Agreement.

1. At the present time Soviet
citizens constitute a static group
with respect to those unwilling
to return to the Soviet Union. It is
again requested that (see para
2-3796 of September 17 with re-
spect to exit of Soviet Mennonites
for resettlement in Paraguay)
authorization be given this head-
quarters to permit the immigration
of those Soviet citizens who leave

the zone under the sponsorship of
an accredited agency (such as
IOC (full title not known)) and
who do not, in the opinion of this
headquarters, fall within the terms
of the Yalta Agreement as being
subject to forcible repatriation.
2. In connexion with the fore-
going, IOC here has made mention
of a United Nations resolution,
reputed to have been adopted,
which precludes the necessity of
submitting annual rolls of pros-
pective immigrants to governments
of countries of origin or citizen-
ship before authorizing their
immigration.

Request text of such resolution,
if adopted, together with inter-
pretation as to its effect on the
Brazilian and similar immigration
programmes.

(Concluded)
Parliamentary report, page 6
Letters, page 17

NUJ steps
up action
in provinces

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The National Union of
Journalists is intensifying sanc-
tions against provincial news-
papers in a dispute over the
back payment of a wage
agreement.

New measures include a ban
on weekend working, except
when it is normal routine; a
ban on the use of private type-
writers; insistence on daily
cleaning of telephones; junior
reporters to be accompanied by
a senior; and insistence on
reporters returning to the office
before beginning the lunch
break.

The union began imposing
sanctions nearly four weeks ago
over a clause in a new national
pay agreement which restricted
local "house" bargaining. Both
sides have agreed on a revised
clause, but the Newspaper
Society, representing the em-
ployers, said it would not back-
date the rise for the period
when sanctions were imposed.

The deal, giving £7.09 a week
from January 1, was reduced
by 26p after being studied by
the Department of Employment.
Many newspaper offices have
reached local agreements with
managements on backdating and
are working normally.

The Newspaper Society two
days ago offered the NUJ a
£35 lump sum in lieu of back
payment. That was rejected.

London West branch of the
union is to consider a com-
plaint against Miss Jenny
Harris, a right-wing member of
the national executive. It says
that Miss Harris, deputy news
editor of the *Evening Gazette*,
has deputized for the news
editor, who is in, in contraven-
tion of the sanctions.

Spiritualist cleared of
faking messages

Mr Gordon Higginson, a lead-
ing Spiritualist, was cleared by
an independent tribunal yester-
day of rigging a clairvoyant ses-
sion.

The complaint was brought by
a fellow Spiritualist, Mrs Phyllis
Simpson, about a meeting at the
Bristol United National Spiritu-
alist Church. She maintained
that names and addresses of
people in the congregation
which Mr Higginson claimed to
have divined by supernatural
gifts had in fact been memor-
ized from lists kept on the
church premises.

She said that Mr Higginson,
President of the National Spiritu-
alist Union, had insisted on
being left alone before the
meeting.

In its findings the tribunal,
presided over by Mr Michael
Thompson, a Bristol solicitor,

said: "We are not satisfied be-
yond reasonable doubt that the
names and addresses were so
obtained and therefore the com-
plaint fails. We do not con-
sider it any part of our duty
to inquire into other possible
sources of such information
whether spiritual or material."
The respondent may have
been unwise in allowing him-
self to be left in the church
for an hour or more, but we
think he was entitled to the
trust of the officers who had
invited him.

"There were matters which
we found proved which give rise
to a reasonable suspicion." The
complaint had not been unjusti-
fiedly made.

Mr Higginson, from Stoke-on-
Trent, has decided to resign as
President of the National
Spiritualist Union.

MP's plea to Mr Foot on
loan fees for authors

By Martin Huckerby

The struggle to establish a
public lending right for authors
is being renewed tomorrow. A
private member's Bill is being
presented by Mr Norman St
John-Stevens for second reading
in the Commons.

Since he came thirteenth in
the ballot, the measure will
need government help if it is to
succeed, and such support
seems unlikely.

A previous Bill was halted by
a filibuster, and as the new one
is the second Bill to be discus-
sed tomorrow, backbenchers
obdurately opposed to the
scheme may ensure that no
time is left to debate the
measure.

If second reading is achieved
tomorrow, the Government will
almost certainly have to pro-
vide the parliamentary time if
it is to pass into law.

The Government supports the
principle of paying authors for
use of their books in public
libraries, but has never shown
great enthusiasm for putting
the scheme on the statute book.

Mr St John-Stevens said yester-
day: "I appeal to Mr Foot,
Leader of the House, a distin-
guished author and supporter
of the lending right cause, to
provide time for my Bill."

Under the Bill payments
would be made to authors from
central government funds
through a fee agency.

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example, it's also used for retractable covers
so that you can use stadiums and swimming pools
in all weathers. And for household textiles too, like

curtains, carpets and upholstery.

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ways too. Have a look around you. There's almost
certain to be a product associated with Hoechst.

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Corimist hair products, Hostalen plastics and many
more all owe something to the care of Hoechst.

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cleaner, more productive crops. And Hoechst
cares about the future too.

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phone 01-570 7712 ext. 3169.

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EUROPE lian Communists oyed by slow e of ruling party

r Own Correspondent

b 22
Christian Democrats are taking their time.

Anyone aware of the dangers facing the country, he said, would want to avoid the shock of a general election, and would prefer "a dignified settlement of the crisis without sacrifice of the identity or dignity of each party, and in particular ours, which it is our duty to think of first."

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Mitterrand coolness to Marchais proposal

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 22
The Communist Party will publicise its attitude to the Socialists before negotiations on a new common programme can resume.

M. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, said today, answering questions at a luncheon given by the French Diplomatic Press Association, he said that there was no point in accepting last night's renewed invitation from M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, to restart talks "without delay and without formalities".

"You cannot, evening and morning, attack the Socialist Party accuse it of moving away from the common programme, poison the atmosphere in the left, and at one and the same time pretend to reach a good agreement. First of all they must start to talk to us again, as befits them, with respect."

When we reach that point things can move quickly. If the Communist Party begins to want again a good Union of the Left and a good realization of the common programme, we will move forward in that way. In all events the day of reckoning is at hand."

M. Mitterrand repeated his offer to hold the next meeting on the common programme on the day after March 19, that date of the second round of the election.

The renewed appeal for talks made in Rheims last night was taken up by the Communist newspaper *L'Humanité*. Until



M. Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, meets a fish merchant in a working class district during the electoral campaign.

now M. Marchais had been saying that he was prepared to talk at any time, but had been content to leave the negotiations until after the first round of the election on March 12.

At a Paris rally last week, he told 70,000 cheering supporters: "Vote communist on the twelfth; negotiate on the thirteenth and victory on the nineteenth." He then seemed confident that he would secure sufficient support in the first round to force M. Mitterrand not only to agree on a common programme dictated by his party but to allow him to pick the portfolios to be allocated to Communists in an eventual government of the left.

The urgency of last night's appeal in Rheims seems to show that as the campaign proceeds M. Marchais is becoming worried about whether he can muster sufficient support at the polls to force M. Mitterrand to do anything. According to the latest *Sofres* opinion poll in *Le Figaro* today, the Communists have 21 per cent support com-



pared to 27 per cent for the Socialists. The Gaullists have 22 per cent, and the Gaullist coalition parties 20 per cent. So with the help of a few smaller parties the Government is predicted to win 45 per cent in the first round compared to 50 per cent for the left.

M. Mitterrand makes clear in an interview in *Le Monde* today that "it is too late" for fresh talks before the election is over. "We will not discuss a second common programme before having applied the first. And we will accept even less to substitute a Communist programme for a common programme."

In last weekend's canonical elections in the Val-de-Marne,

the Communist candidate, who was leading over the Socialist one causing him to withdraw, was beaten because 48 per cent of the Socialist voters refused to vote Communist in the second round.

So it seems that the urgent request by M. Marchais for more talks before the election may point the way to a new meeting soon.

A television journalist asked if there was any chance of a television debate between M. Mitterrand and M. Barre, the Prime Minister. M. Mitterrand suggested that was something for the television companies to arrange, "although it seems to me that M. Barre is already taking a great deal of precautions to see that that does not happen."

Boxer dies after blows to head in Madrid ring

From Harry Debelus

Madrid, Feb 22
The Spanish middleweight boxer Juan Jesus Rubio Melero, aged 24, died here today from injuries received in a match here last Friday against Francis Rodriguez, the Spanish champion.

Senior Rubio Melero, one of 10 children of an unemployed carpenter, three of whom are boxers, suffered irreparable brain damage in the fight. He underwent an operation but remained in a coma from the time he was hit by the blows.

The Madrid daily *Ya* reported today that the dead fighter's opponent had said in Tenerife that if he had been the referee he would have stopped the fight, or if he had been Senior Rubio's manager he would have thrown in the towel before the fatal knock-out in the seventh round because Senior Rubio was completely groggy.

There was no oxygen tank at the Madrid Sports Palace where the fight took place, nor was there an ambulance standing by.

Senior Rubio's death extended the list of an estimated 500 boxers pummeled to death in various countries in the name of sport in this century, according to the Madrid evening newspaper *Informaciones*. It was his eighth professional fight, of which he had won six and drawn one, after an amateur career of about 80 fights.

nn denies calling off hunt for Nazis

tricia Clough

b 22
West German Justice today denied a claim by a left-wing Socialist deputy on a BBC programme that the German Government has dragged its feet on Nazi crimes in a protect promise.

Specifically rejected as "a charge of wrongdoing" a charge by Karl-Heinz Jensen that the German Government had failed to materialise its promise in the German documentation of former Nazis in material there, which trained staff files, had used repeatedly by the German Government, the Ministry spokesman, announced film, made

some months ago and broadcast on Monday evening, raised the question of whether the Allies and the West Germans had sought out and punished Nazi criminals with sufficient thoroughness.

It has been strongly criticized by West German correspondents in London as one-sided. They found that it did not make clear to viewers the difficulties involved.

"There was no word about the big trials, the many smaller ones, the dogged investigations, or the many people sentenced. There was no mention of how a person can only be condemned in a democracy if his crime can be proved," the correspondent of *Die Welt* said.

"There was almost nothing about how often and how passionately the Bundestag has made alterations in the laws, exclusively in order that Nazi crimes should not remain unpunished."

Christian Democrats are taking their time.

Anyone aware of the dangers facing the country, he said, would want to avoid the shock of a general election, and would prefer "a dignified settlement of the crisis without sacrifice of the identity or dignity of each party, and in particular ours, which it is our duty to think of first."

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A woman can leave her job to bring up a family without losing her right to a basic pension.

What you will pay.

This table summarises the new contributions you'll pay from 6 April (the present rates, where different, are in brackets).

The new rates are listed fully in leaflet NL208 obtainable from main Post Offices and Social Security offices.

Class 1 contributions	Employees	Employers
Standard rate	6.5% (5.75%)	10% (8.75%)
Contracted-out rates:		
□ on first £17.50 a week	6.5% (5.75%)	10% (8.75%)
□ on earnings between £17.50 and £120 a week	4% (5.75%)	5.5% (8.75%)
Reduced-rate for some married women and widows	2%	As above (standard or contracted out)
Men over 65 and women over 60	NIL (some 5.75%)	10% (8.75%)
Lower and upper earnings limits £17.50 and £120 a week (£15 and £105).		
Employers' contributions do not take account of the NL Surcharge		
Class 2 contributions: self-employed £1.90 a week (£2.55/£2.65)		
Small earnings exception from liability £2950 a year (£875)		
Class 3 voluntary contributions	£1.80 a week (£2.45)	
Class 4 contributions: self-employed 5% (8%) on profits or gains between £2,000 and £6,250 a year (£1,750 and £5,500)		

If you already draw a pension. The scheme doesn't affect people already retired.

However, your existing state pension will continue to be fully protected against inflation.

Working after pension age.

People who carry on working after pension age will no longer be liable for contributions after 6 April, although their employers will.

If you're self-employed.

You will not contribute to the new additional pension and will not receive it. But your rights to the basic pension remain and you will pay lower contributions than you did before.

To find out more.

For full details of the new pension scheme fill in this coupon, or ask your local Social Security office for a copy of leaflet NP34. The leaflet also covers other changes, some of which affect people with more than one job.

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NEW PENSIONS:
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OVERSEAS

Russians
accuse
Egypt of
surrenderFrom Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 22

President Assad of Syria finished his talks in Moscow today with a firm Soviet commitment to support his opposition to President Sadat of Egypt, but little in the way of any new initiative on the Middle East.

At a banquet in the Syrian President's honour last night, President Brezhnev accused the Egyptian leadership of "unilaterally surrendering one part of Arab position after another". As a result, he said, serious damage had been done to the Arab cause and the chances of a Middle East settlement had been set back.

The Soviet leader said the Arab countries were at a crossroads. The "imperialists"—that is, the Americans—were encouraging "conclitors" and "capitulators" with promises of money and aid. "Is it not time to stop the unprincipled manoeuvres in the Middle East?" he asked.

Mr Brezhnev praised Syria for its "realistic and constructive" policy.

The Russians purport to believe that they have President Sadat on the run, and this is therefore their opportunity to reassert their influence in the Middle East. However, there is no evidence at the end of President Assad's visit that the Russians have any clear idea what to do supplanting the Soviet effort fails.

President Assad, for all that he has been fettered during his three days here (he was seized among the Follies at the Kremlin ceremony today commemorating the founding of the Soviet Army) has been cautious in his public statements.

Coinciding with the Assad visit was the curious announcement that Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, the deputy Libyan leader, did not return to Libya on Friday as was officially reported in the Soviet press.

Tass said he left today, five days later than planned. The obvious speculation is that he was persuaded to join the Assad talks, or that the Russians wished to keep his continued presence in this country secret while he negotiated arms purchases.

At the same time, Mr Alfred Atherton, the United States Under-Secretary of State, arrived in Egypt this evening, fresh from talks with Mr Begla, the Israeli Prime Minister (Our Cairo Correspondent writes).

He said he would discuss concrete ideas with the Egyptian Foreign Minister when he meets him tomorrow.

Husain bin Ali, a British foreign correspondent based in Cyprus, was charged tonight with publishing a false report.

In reply he said: "I am not guilty of writing false news. I wrote my report in good faith."



Brigadier Shukri (right), who led the Larnaca commando raid, listens to President Sadat's defiant speech.

Cairo hysteria as commandos are borne to rest

From David Watts
Cairo, Feb 22

Slaughter the Palestinians. Revenge, revenge, Sadat! Take Arafat's head in revenge! howl dozens of young men as Egyptian troops dash here and there trying to force back the Cairo crowd.

"Coward Cypriots. Our troops died like dogs." The broad dusty boulevard becomes a river of hysteria. A sudden release of days of tension after the murder of one of Egypt's leading journalists and the shock of defeat at the hands of a friendly nation in an attempt to rescue the victims of a hijacking.

The roofs and balconies of the high apartment buildings are packed with people shouting down the same message of hate to President Sadat, members of the Cabinet and leaders of the armed forces as they

walk slowly behind the bodies of the 15 Commandos who died at Larnaca airport on Sunday. The scream of a black-veiled woman rises suddenly above everything to be lost again to a hubbub of anger and hatred.

Leading the parade are rows of slim commandos in motled brown and sand-coloured combat kit, the survivors of the raid. Ahead lies the futuristic monument to the Unknown Soldier in the shape of a pyramid. Behind, in three freshly painted vans draped with the Egyptian flag, lie the commandos' bodies.

Arafat, Arafat, stop the treachery and assassination. Gather your men from the cabarets, shout the crowds. The Egyptians feel they have borne the main burden of the war against Israel and struggled for the Palestinians.

A few weeks ago the hopes

for peace were high, but in less than a week of violence and murder 16 Egyptians are dead at the hands of other Arabs or of previously friendly nations. An emotional head of steam has been building up in the Egyptians, and today it began to be felt in the hysterical tribute to the dead commandos by the ordinary people and in a fighting speech by President Sadat to the survivors of the Larnaca raid.

As the mourners gather in a colourful tent outside the Rabaa El Adawiya mosque, in the Cairo suburb of Nasser City, where the commandos have their headquarters, the atmosphere is peculiarly restrained. Only the relatives of the dead sob quietly at one end of the long awning as Egypt's political and military leadership come together for the second day of national mourning in

four days, after the burial of Mr Youssef Siha on Sunday.

The procession lines up to move off for the half-hour march and a group of hysterical women, waving black scarves and screaming, have to be restrained by troops. The steady drumming of the band serves only to underline the emotional scenes along the route as the cortege moves through the suburbs. Huge floral tributes set out neatly, rows of coloured banners, and the sombre official faces of the police and the unending lines of mourners.

Suddenly, yards short of the monument, sirens scream and the official party sweeps away in limousines, the crowd engulfing the shrine to Egypt's war dead and the ceremony is over. Emotion is spent. The life of the nation moves on to other things, and the bereaved are left alone to bury their dead.

Cyprus suspends deputy police chief and charges British reporter for raid reports

Nicosia, Feb 22.—President Kyprianou suspended the deputy chief of police today and the Government took action against newsmen for allegedly inaccurate reporting of the Cypriot-Egyptian gun battle at Larnaca last Sunday that left 15 Egyptian troops dead.

An official announcement said that Mr Pavlos Stokkos, the deputy chief, had been suspended for "communicating false information regarding the events at Larnaca airport and for negligence in the execution of his duties".

Mr John Stierman, a British foreign correspondent based in Cyprus, was charged tonight with publishing a false report.

In reply he said: "I am not guilty of writing false news. I wrote my report in good faith."

based on facts which justified such a publication. There were a number of eye-witnesses willing to substantiate my description of the incident.

An announcement said that the Attorney-General was also investigating the daily newspaper *Simerini* for reporting that "a massacre" had been carried out by members of the Cypriot National Guard against Egyptian commandos when they tried to storm a Cyprus Airways aircraft in which two Palestinians were holding 11 Arab hostages and four crew members.

At the same time, President Kyprianou sent his condolences to Egypt over the deaths of their soldiers.

He said: "Your bereavement is also our bereavement. It has never been our intention to

cause difficulties or harm to Egypt with which we are linked by old bonds of friendship fostered during most difficult times." —UPI and Agence France-Presse.

Palestinian denial: The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) today denied in Beirut that a group of its officials who had been invited to Cyprus to help negotiations with the two Palestinian gunmen had fought along with the Cypriot forces.

The delegation was not at the airport at the time of the shooting, the spokesman said here.

The Cyprus Government also denied that the PLO men took part in the battle, but it said that the PLO delegation was at the airport when Egyptian troops intervened to liberate the hostages. —Agence France-Presse.

British move to end ILO 'abuses'

By Paul Routledge

British trade union leaders are seeking changes in the running of the International Labour Organization (ILO) that would effectively reduce the influence of the Communist bloc and the world and open the way for reformation by the United States.

The TUC General Council agreed yesterday to give priority in its efforts at the ILO conference in June to restoring effective management to the organization. The British unions want to remove approval of conventions from the East-West political battleground and to end some of the political

debate that takes place. Mr Leo Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said last night: "We have long taken the view that the ILO should not be a forum for great political discussions which are more appropriate to the United Nations."

"We believe there has been abuse of ILO procedures. Many of the complaints made by the United States in the past have been on issues where we ourselves thought that the ILO could improve its operations. Naturally we want to see the United States back in."

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Mr Sithole claims British swing in favour of Salisbury pact

By David Spanier

Diplomatic correspondence from the British Government is coming round to the idea of supporting the "internal settlement" now being negotiated in Rhodesia, the Rev Nkomo's nationalist leader, claimed yesterday.

Although Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, was not prepared to give a British commitment at this stage, he said, this would be necessary fairly soon.

Mr Sithole, who has given British ministers a confidential report of progress in the Salisbury talks, will be having further discussions at the Foreign Office today and possibly tomorrow, Mr Richard Moore, an American State Department official, is expected to attend.

The explanation for the new progress towards majority rule lies in the phenomenon of "two Sitholes". Mr Sithole told a press conference yesterday.

Up to last year, Mr Sithole was fighting against the very principle of majority rule, based on one man one vote; now he had publicly committed himself to the same principle. Many people wondered if he was sincere; Mr Sithole asked them to judge by the result of the talks.

In an important new point, Mr Sithole emphasized that he would agree to accept the leaders of the Patriotic Front in the proposed interim government.

"We are pressing Mr Sithole to see that they are invited to the settlement," he said. "But the African delegations were opposed to Mr Sithole leading the interim government, as he was insisting. There was disagreement on this, but he distinguished between 'deadlock and collapse' in the talks."

He had come to London to explain the "realities" of the negotiations in Salisbury, Mr Sithole said, hence his letters to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, urging them to make the talks seriously.

Outlining the stages towards a settlement, during which British support would be needed at some point, Mr Sithole said the first stage would be signature of an agreement on the broad principles, at the end of this month or early next month. Then the interim government would be formed to deal with questions concerning the ceasefire, lifting the ban on political parties, releasing political detainees, and arrangements for the election. He thought this would last six to nine months. The British Government had not decided at what stage it should "come in"; this would depend on events. "We feel the British Government has an important role in play, by recognizing what we shall agree on as the people of Zimbabwe."

Washington: After initially pouring cold water on the pro-

posed internal settlement, the Administration is now adopting a more positive view of the tentative agreement reached by Mr Sithole and black moderates last week (David Cross writes last week).

This could conceivably pave the way for American recognition of a new government in Salisbury if it proves to be acceptable to the black majority.

While still voicing reservations, the State Department conceded in a statement today that the new movement towards majority rule represented a "significant step".

The statement made it clear, however, that the Anglo-American plan offered in Washington's view the best chance of a peaceful and lasting settlement.

Salisbury: The nationalist groups involved in the Salisbury talks have formally demanded Mr Sithole's speedy departure as Prime Minister and dissolution of the present white-dominated Parliament, conference sources said.

The United African National Council (UANC), the ANC (Sithole) and the Zimbabwe United People's Organization (ZUPU) tabled the paper, setting out their united stand against Mr Sithole's proposals for a white-controlled transitional administration lasting up to 15 months. The nationalists want black control and a six-month interim before majority rule.—Reuters.

119 Ovambo children 'abducted by Swapo'

Windhoek, Feb 22.—Guerillas of the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) last night abducted 119 Ovambo pupils from a mission school at Odibo, in northern South-West Africa (Namibia). This was announced here tonight.

Mr Justice Steyn, the Administrator General, said that about 80 guerrillas had abducted the children, a number of whom had been managed to escape before being taken across the Angolan border.—AP.

Nbumba, a teacher from the school, said that two South African servicemen had been killed as a result of clashes in the border operational area of South-West Africa between the South African defence force and Swapo guerrillas. This brought to six the number of South African servicemen to have been killed since a clash on Sunday.

According to Major-General J. Geldenhuys, the commanding officer in South-West Africa, at least 10 guerrillas have been killed and a number of others wounded during follow-up operations after Sunday's incident.

The rising death toll on the South African side would seem to indicate a marked increase in the border war. Last month Swapo announced its intention to increase military activities against South African troops based in the north of the territory.

Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, who withdrew from talks with Western foreign ministers in New York earlier this month, is in London for talks with the Administrator General and representatives of various internal political organizations.

S Africans unhappy at broadcasting 'bias'

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Feb 22

Television viewers in South Africa were astounded by the biased handling of the exchange in New York between Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, and a tough team of CBS interviewers. The programme caused such a stir that it was repeated.

On their local ground, ministers usually have an easy time with interviewers. In Parliament, the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has been accused of excessive pandering to government officials which, Oppenheimer said, was "lowering morale among its staff."

Mr David Dalling of the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) accused the SABC of "gross political bias" in television and radio news broadcasts.

He called for the setting up of an independent authority to replace the present control-

ling board, which he described as "an extension of the National Party Cabinet."

Mr Dalling also wanted a body to investigate complaints of biased reporting. He quoted a Rhodes University survey made over four weeks in September and October which he said showed that 81 per cent of political news was taken up by National Party representatives or government officials.

Dr Piet Koornhof, the Minister of National Education, rejects Mr Dalling's figures and says that in the past six months the SABC received only seven complaints compared to thousands of appreciative letters.

Newspapers, though, regularly receive protests from disgruntled readers who want to see more honest discussion of the problems facing the country.

Soweto police given two swimming pools

Johannesburg, Feb 22.—The black township of Soweto gained two more swimming pools today, for police use only.

Johannesburg's shadow city of 1,250,000 blacks has seven swimming pools, roughly one for every 178,000 people. The two pools were presented to the police today by the Southern Cross Fund charity. One will be for black police, the other for white police.

Police spokesmen said there were about 1,200 police based in the township, and the pools would be for the exclusive use of them and their families. The majority of Soweto police are black.—Reuters.

In brief
Roman Polanski may face judge

Los Angeles, Feb 22.—Roman Polanski, the film director, may return to the United States from France to face sentencing on a charge of sexual intercourse with a minor, because the judge in the case has stepped down. Mr Douglas Dalton, his American lawyer, said.

Mr Polanski, who is 44, and a French citizen, fled to France on January 31.

Everest celebrations

Katmandu, Feb 22.—Nepal is to invite 56 climbers who have reached the summit of Mount Everest to take part in celebrations in May marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first ascent made by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay.

Russia arrests unionist

Moscow, Feb 22.—Mr Vladimir Klebanov, one of the leaders of a workers' group trying to set up an independent trade union in the Soviet Union, has been arrested and placed in a psychiatric hospital, dissident sources said today.

7oz baby lives

Jakarta, Feb 22.—A "miniature" premature baby girl, weighing only 7oz at birth in Java three weeks ago, was today reported to be doing well after doctors predicted that she would live only a few days. She now weighs 21oz.

Last publication

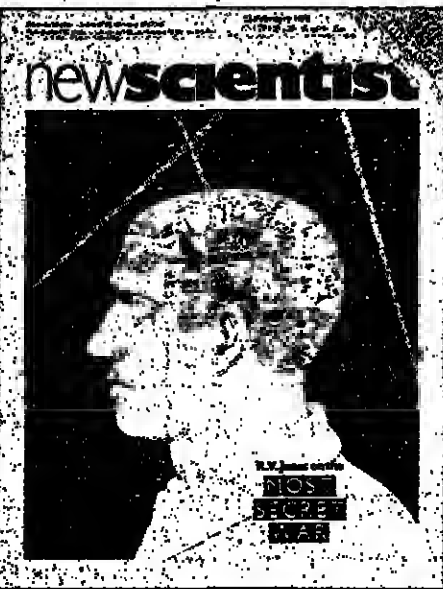
Chicago, Feb 22.—The Chicago Daily News, founded in 1876, will publish for the last time on March 4. It is the city's only surviving afternoon daily.

What price oil shales?

The world's oil shale deposits contain 600 times the amount of oil available in proven petroleum reserves. An obvious answer to the fuel crisis you might think. But present estimates suggest that only some 2 per cent of the oil is recoverable. Even that is substantially dearer than Middle East crude oil. Nevertheless, as Ramus Galois of the Institute of Geological Sciences recounts in this week's *New Scientist*, the Department of Energy has recently called for a comprehensive survey of Britain's oil shales which are thought to be the source rocks of the North Sea oil.

Also this week *New Scientist* publishes an extract from Professor R. V. Jones's new book *Most Secret War*, in which he describes the "breaking" of the German's Enigma enciphering machine and other intelligence triumphs.

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Coal strikers reject peace plan

Washington, Feb 22.—Leaders of striking American coal miners today rejected a proposal by mine owners that both sides submit to private binding arbitration to end the strike.

Mr Marshall, the Labour Secretary, resumed efforts to produce a negotiated settlement.

But with no clear prospects for an agreement, the White House announced that legislation had been prepared to enable President Carter to end the 79-day strike by Government intervention.

The President would need legislation approved by Congress if he decided to end the strike through Government-imposed binding arbitration or a federal takeover of the mines.

As an alternative, the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association proposed yesterday that striking miners return to work immediately while a private panel of arbitrators drew up a new contract.

The United Mine Workers rejected that suggestion outright, however, and union negotiator Mr Kenneth Dawes denounced the mine owners' representatives as "a bunch of pigheaded people."

He said the union would accept binding arbitration only if it were imposed by the Government, but added that he opposed that or any form of federal intervention.—UPI.

Warning by Moscow over neutron 'intimidation'

Moscow, Feb 22.—Marshal Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, said today that the Soviet Union would not be intimidated by cruise missiles, neutron bombs or other new weapons and could match any armaments developed by its enemies.

In a speech marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Soviet armed forces, he said the arms race was becoming increasingly dangerous as reactionary forces in the West sought to gain advantages over the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union, he said, wanted peace and was doing everything necessary to ensure progress in the strategic arms limitation talks.

But he added: "Let no one take our love of peace for weakness and let no one try to scare us with new types of lethal weapons. . . . Our economy, science and technology can ensure the develop-

ment of any arms on which our adversaries may try to place reliance."

Marshal Ustinov also criticized China's leadership which, he said, was trying to fan hostility and hatred between peoples, conducting vicious anti-Soviet propaganda, and opposing all peace initiatives of socialist countries.

All that the Soviet people do in the military field is being done to secure themselves and their socialist friends against attack and to prevent an aggression"—AP.

Leading article, page 17

Muhammad Ali made consul for Bangladesh

Dacca, Feb 22.—Muhammad Ali, former world heavyweight boxing champion, was today appointed honorary consul general for Bangladesh in Chicago.

Mr Ali, who left for London at the end of a five-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, went to the Foreign Ministry today and was given a Bangladesh passport and letter of appointment.

"I will now represent Bangladesh everywhere, I'll fly a Bangladesh flag in my house, in my new office at Chicago and in my car," he told journalists.

"When I appear in my next fight to regain my title, I want the world press to introduce me as a citizen of Bangladesh."

Mr Ali described Bangladesh as a paradise and said he would build a house at Bangladesh sea resort and live there two months a year.—Reuters.

The book of the moment on the diplomat of the decade

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Roger Morris

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Law Report February 22 1978

Damages in currency that best expresses plaintiff's loss

Services Europe Atlantique Sud v. Stockholm Rederiksbolaget
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Ormrod and Lord Justice Cooffey, Lane.
Damages for breach of contract in respect of sums expended in a currency which was not the currency of the contract should be expressed in the currency which most truly expressed his loss.
The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by claimant charterers, Services Europe Atlantique Sud, from the decision of Mr Justice Robert Goff, 17 February 1977, 1 WLR 176, and restored an award by arbitrators of damages in French francs on the charterers' claim against Stockholm Rederiksbolaget, Svea, owners of the *Follas*, for breach of charterparty.

Mr Justice Robert Goff, on a special case stated by the arbitrators, held that the award was wrong since the francs were not the currency in which the loss was incurred.
Mr Gordon Pollock for the charterers; Mr Martin Moore-Bick for the owners.
The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the Swedish owners of the *Follas* had been on a time charter to French charterers. Any dispute was to be referred to three arbitrators in London and the proper law of the charterparty was English.
During a voyage from Spain to Brazil the cargo of oranges on the vessel failed and some of the cargo of oranges rotted. The cargo receivers claimed damages, which the charterers sought to recover from the owners.

The claim was settled in August, 1972, by the French charterers in francs, which they bought with their own francs. The arbitrators found that the loss was incurred in francs, and the award was in francs. The claim was settled in August, 1972, by the French charterers in francs, which they bought with their own francs. The arbitrators found that the loss was incurred in francs, and the award was in francs.

As between the charterers and the owners, the measure of damages was the francs lost by the charterers. In settling the claim, the arbitrators had to express the francs in sterling. The cases of those times did not have any application today when arbitrators were allowed to award damages in the currency of the contract.

In the present case the court had to consider a familiar kind of loss, incurred by a plaintiff in consequence of the defendant's breach of contract or his tort. A plaintiff is entitled to be compensated for his actual expenditure or loss. In such cases, when dealing in sterling, the award gave him the very sums he had expended, together with interest, even if there had been a devaluation. But what was the position when sums were expended in foreign currency? The award had to be in sterling. But there was no such difficulty when the award was in sterling. The award was in sterling. The award was in sterling.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD, concurring, said that the award was in francs, and the award was in francs. The award was in francs, and the award was in francs. The award was in francs, and the award was in francs. The award was in francs, and the award was in francs.

LORD JUSTICE COFFEY, concurring, said that the award was in francs, and the award was in francs. The award was in francs, and the award was in francs. The award was in francs, and the award was in francs. The award was in francs, and the award was in francs.

Chancery Division.
Penalty orders against companies set aside
B & S Displays Ltd and Others v. Inland Revenue Commissioners.
Before Mr Justice Goulding.
Judgment given on February 21.

Points of law concerning corporation tax returns by companies and the powers of the Board of Inland Revenue to impose penalties on companies for failure to comply with such requests, were considered by Mr Justice Goulding in the special commission proceedings.

His Lordship allowed appeals by two of the companies and also in part appeals by two of the other companies against orders imposing penalties on them under section 98 (1) of the Taxes Management Act, 1970, for failure to comply with requests for documents.

Mr Patrick Medd, QC, for the companies; Mr Brian Davenport for the Crown.
MR JUSTICE GOULDING said that section 20 of the Taxes Management Act gave the revenue power to issue notices requiring a company to produce documents and accounts available for inspection once it had been required to produce such documents and accounts for inspection by the revenue.

Mr Medd submitted that the notices requiring the various documents were bad because they related to periods long past—some going back to 1961. Although, unlike some of its neighbouring sections, section 20 did not expressly contain any time limit, by inference it should be restricted to the normal six-year period applicable to the making of assessments.

That argument was not persuasive; the power given to the revenue under section 20 would be most useful in making investigations which might disclose past fraud or wilful default; and in such cases the normal time limit did not apply. Further, if Parliament had intended to impose such a limitation it would have been easy for it to have done so. The submission failed.

It was further argued that the notices were bad because of inaccurate recitals and grounds for giving them; the accuracy of the various companies submitted to the inspector were not "returns" within the meaning of the section. This argument was also rejected.

Attractive as that argument was, it was not necessary to express a view on it. It was correct that the revenue would have had grounds for serving the notices on the companies for failure to deliver returns. This it would be contrary to common sense to

Green's hand intact so title plans go ahead

Dave Green, who damaged his right hand by hitting Roy Johnson at the Albert Hall on Tuesday night, underwent an X-ray examination at Hammersmith hospital yesterday morning. The examination revealed no damage and the injury is not likely to interfere with Green's preparation for his Commonwealth welterweight championship bout against Clyde Gray, of Canada, at Wembley on March 3.

After five months out of the ring, Green's performance last night was not only impressive but he needs a 15-round bout in which to try out the tactics that have been put together for him. Consequently, both boxer and manager are anxious to go through with the Wembley date.

Shavers v. Holmes
New York, Feb. 22.—Bernie Shavers, the world's third-ranking heavyweight, will meet Larry Holmes, who is undefeated, in what is being billed as a heavy-weight elimination bout over 12 rounds at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas on March 2. Holmes has won all his 26 bouts, 19 of them by knockouts.—UPI.

Tennis South Africa's three groups fail to merge

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, Feb. 22.—An attempt by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to help bring about an end to apartheid in South Africa's tennis organizations has failed as a result of disagreement between the three existing South African tennis organizations over the creation of a single non-racial governing body.

The failure of the three organizations to get together means that South Africa's tennis remains in the Davis Cup and Federation Cup competitions. The ITF is now likely to come under increasing pressure to expel South Africa from the world body.

Mr Charteris said at a press conference today that the ITF believed that the three South African tennis organizations were the only ones to be able to bring about a non-racial governing body. The president of the white body, Blen Franklin, has said he is prepared to get together with the other two groups to form a steering committee for a new, non-racial governing body but refused to accept the conditions laid down by the other two. These were that the white body should end their affiliation with the ITF and make a declaration of intent to place a moratorium on all South African players entering overseas competitions until the new governing body had been set up.

The three groups have agreed to meet again soon and it is still possible that they may yet manage to stave their differences in order to prevent South Africa being excluded from international tennis. Mr Charteris said one positive result from the ITF visit was a letter from the Minister of Sport, Dr Piet Koornhof, affirming that there were no legal bars on any tennis player appearing on any court in South Africa or joining any club. He also said steps were being taken to give international status to sports clubs and to ensure that public funds spent on sport would be allocated proportionately to all race groups.

Christopher Mottram is ready to make a comeback to Davis Cup tennis. He has ended his long-running dispute with the British team manager, Paul Hutchins, and announced yesterday that he is ready to return to the first European tour match against Moscow from March 17 to 19. Mottram's clash of opinion with Mr Hutchins over the British number one out of the Davis Cup team for almost two years. After a series of recent meetings—the last one in London last week—Mr Hutchins and Mr Mottram have resolved their differences.

Mr Mottram, nursing a back injury, said at a press conference yesterday: "I think we have all made some unnecessary public remarks. The matter has been cleared up and is certainly available to play Davis Cup for Britain in 1978."

Mr Mottram's return to Davis Cup tennis is a significant development for British tennis. He has been a key player for the British team in recent years. His return will strengthen the team's chances of success in the upcoming Davis Cup tournament.

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McHarg, whose hand injury has allowed David Gray to win a first Scottish cap in the Calcutta Cup match.

Scots hope Gray will cut Colclough to size

David Gray, at 6ft 8in and 185lb, wins his first cap for Scotland in the Calcutta Cup match against England at Murrayfield on Saturday week.
Scots have made as they attempt to redeem their failures and recapture the Calcutta Cup, which they lost to England in 1976. Gray is named for his third different position in four games—to revert to full back, where he played against Ireland and Wales, and they would then bring in Dougal, the flying Jordanhill wing.

Scotland's results so far this season have been disappointing: they were narrowly beaten by both Ireland and France, and lost more decisively to Wales. Nairn MacEwan, their coach, believes that they can maintain a winning record against England at Murrayfield.

Gray, aged 25, played for the winning Whites team in the Scottish trial and played in a B international against Ireland. He is one of the biggest men to have been picked for his country. He has been called up because of a shortage of players in the scrum. He is expected to play in the scrum against England.

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Gray, aged 25, played for the winning Whites team in the Scottish trial and played in a B international

BOOKS/TWO

Group portrait

Letters
age, Beatrice Hastings,
e Mansfield, John
n Murry, S. S. Koz-
1906-1957
Casswell
7.95

greatly "the flower
and" was sacrificed
4 to 1918, the First
War was not such a
in English literature
the Second. If E. M.
was right in believing
1920s were the last
decade of this century
because continuity did
not have been shar-
haw, Wells, Kipling,
Eliot, Barrie, Gals-
were still writing
a host of minor sur-
Today's backward
o that seemingly inno-
have revived some of

A. R. Orage. Samuel
ve him and his New
chapter in *Edwardian*
six years ago. Profes-
sors Martin of Toledo
y edited Orage as
collected in his jour-
1974. Now John Cars-
made him the starting
yet another explora-
what may loosely be
in world.

shot is somewhat akin
to the orchestra
ers are introduced one
ach then merging with
ers. But the musical
breaks down when we
the turn. The result
harmony but discord.
the attitudes of these
mental people to each
were ambivalent—

Katherine Mansfield's depend-
ence on the cruelty to Ida
Baker; Beatrice Hastings's love-
hate sequence with almost every-
one (Mr Casswell's handling of
her is the best I have read since
a memorable issue of *Adam*);
Lawrence's praise and scorn of
Katherine Mansfield. Kate-
rinsky, loyal, disinterested, liv-
ing on goodness knows what,
was the only constant. The
greatest inconstant was John
Middletown Murry.

Mr Casswell has little liking
for Murry. He describes
Murry's "cowardice and help-
lessness in the presence of
Katherine", his "typical
methods of self-justification,
with its initial self-righteous-
ness and ingratitude and final
snarl". There is hardly an
occasion on which Murry
shines. Following a splendid
beginning, Murry's editing
became increasingly question-
able. Yet his literary energy
was astonishing. Admittedly,
he had to write to live. The
conditions under which he did
so, particularly during his
third marriage, convince one
he had a true daemon so far as
literature was concerned, how-
ever unreliable he was in per-
sonal relationships, politics and
religion. The feeling sometimes
arises that justice has not been
done to him, only to be killed
almost immediately by some
memory or revelation.

It is a tribute to Mr Cars-
well's skill that familiar the
whole of this human panorama
from 1906 to 1957 is, he can
reawaken such a host of emo-
tions. For newcomers *Lives and*
Letters should be fascinating.

Sir William Haley

Crime

er
t Jansson
an, £3.75

Connolly
£4.25

two books that point
their different fashions,
ie in the taking of life
ery much of our par-
ay. Orwell in his now
d essay of 1946, "The
of the English Mur-
dered, or can we near
the quality of killings
diately postwar Eng-
ice, he said, the mur-
ch attracted consum-
erest had strong
behind them and
mitted almost with-
out for reasons of
between wars. Bra-
characteristic vice. They

were, in fact, murders to avoid
publicity. Thirty years on,
nous avons changé tout cela:
the characteristic 1970s mur-
der is done to attract publicity.
Both these stories centre on
killings by groups wanting to
push themselves up above the
babble.

Jansson's subject is the politi-
cal hijacker, the man (or in
his case woman) prepared to
ditch human lives in exchange
for air-time, and he very much
makes us think about such
people, even if his book does
not in the end collect together
enough of the intangibles that
transform a plain thriller into
something long memorable.
But it is written absolutely
well enough for its purpose,
with a nice light touch in the
quieter moments making the
reaser ooes all the more ex-
citing and plenty of the detail
that convinces in the passages
of high suspense. One could
wish puristically that he had
made his point solely through
the gripping sequences in his
hijacked airliner (there is later
a long tentativeness Solent yacht
chase), but you can't have
everything.

Newsdeath has in theory the
same theme, the story of a
gang who take over Capital
Radio to change out revolution-
ary propaganda, and again
there is plenty of authentic
detail. But I fancy the theme
failed fully to emerge in its
author's mind, swamped as it
may have been by the delights
of an up-to-the-minute plot.
Nor is the writing as efficient
as in *News Caper*. At times
getting hold of the story feels
a bit like wading through
treacle. But unless you're
hooked on the highest stan-
dards there's plenty here to
while away any plane trip. If
you're not hijacked.

The Lantern Network, by Ted
Alburey (Peter Davies, £4.10).
Really affecting tale of love and
hate going back to the Resist-
ance as Occupation ends. A
driving storyline, leanly athletic
writing.

Crooked Wood, by Michael
Underwood (Macmillan, £3.50).
Shady solicitor murdered, who
paid? Munchily satisfying as
ever on the inner workings of
our legal system; less intrigu-
ing plot-wise than he can be.

Deep Pocket, by Michael
Kenyon (Collins, £3.75). That
important issue, massive muni-
cipal corruption: dangerously
modest Inspector and grunt-
of-appreciation jokes galore.
Alas, method and subject don't
quite mesh.

The Poison People, by William
Haggard (Cassell, £3.95).
Hokey, Colonel Russell rides
again, briefly to India, warvel-
lously preening as an ever
(alcohol-drinkers are good: tea-
drinkers bad), even if it's not
as involving as once.

To Nick A Good Body, by
Barry Norman (Quarrel, £4.25).
Welcome new police procedural,
bringing the Met appealingly to
life with much lively demo-
if too fleetingly cheerful for
total success.

H. R. F. Keating

HAGGARD

William Haggard's
22nd Charles Russell political thriller

The Poison People

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Edmund Crispin, THE SUNDAY TIMES

Feb 23rd/£3.95

Cassell

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Top: Louis Heren, Deputy Editor of *The Times*, in a Burberry trenchcoat, £95, from Burberry, 18 Haymarket, 165 Regent St, and from Hector Powe stores at 51 Halkett Place, St Haller, Jersey, 35 Gordon St, Glasgow, and 1-3 Bank Square, Wilmslow, Cheshire. Desert Boots £3.99 from Millets Western, 69 Oxford St and other London and provincial branches.

Above: Dark charcoal grey pin stripe, ready to wear, by Chester Barrie, £175 from Gieves & Hawkes, 1 Savile Row. Black calf shoes by Crockett & Jones, £31.95, from Gieves & Hawkes, 18 Lima St, EC3 and Savile Row. Umbrella from James Smith & Sons, from a wide selection, at 53 New Oxford St, £11.50. Black kid gloves from Simpsons of Piccadilly, £11. Dark grey trilby from Lock, 6 St James. Blue and white stripe cotton shirt, Turnbull & Asser Ltd, 71 & 72 St James, £16.50 (they will make to measure) and a red grenadine tie, £10.00. Red roses from Poulbrook & Gould, 161 Sloane St (235 3920).

Photographs by Trevor Sutton.

Men's fashion by Louis Heren

The fantasy of male machismo

The success of men's fashions depends more often than not upon the urge to be different, although those who succumb join the ranks of a new uniformity. Another factor is myth or fantasy. This is in the mind of the wearer and not the eye of the beholder, and therefore can be immensely persuasive.

For instance, as soon as I was appointed to the foreign staff of this newspaper I took a cab to Haymarket and bought a Burberry trenchcoat because it was part of the mythology of foreign correspondents. Desert boots were another essential accoutrement, and the portable typewriter had to be battered.

The gear changed with assignments. In India I wore rather deshabille bushshirts. I also bought an Afghan coat in the Peshawar bazaar long before they appeared on the racks of the King's Road. It panned a bit, but it suggested the Khyber and other romantic places were the natural stamping ground of foreign correspondents.

I regretfully discarded this colourful plumage when I flew off to cover the first Israel-Arab war. Khaki shirt and shorts were the order of the day with Israelis. Correspondents wore them because their very basic utilitarianism was part of a new myth—the egalitarianism of the Israeli armed forces. Nevertheless I gladly swapped them for a *Kaffiyeh* and the sheepskin-lined scarlet cloak of the Desert Patrol when I later covered the Arab legion. The desert cold—it actually snowed one night—was only one reason.

I first went to war in Korea wearing a flannel suit, shod in silk shoes and suede shoes because, so I explained at the time, I was not prepared to die in the locomotive engineer's overalls issued to American combat troops. The suede shoes did not last for long and I switched to paratrooper's boots long before the first blizzard blew out of Manchuria, but I wore a silk Chinese padded jacket under my parka be-

cause we professional foreign correspondents saw ourselves as a race apart from the small-town hacks who came out to write local-boy stories for home-town newspapers.

It was back to bushshirts when I was posted to South-east Asia, where the local white society was unbelievably stuffy. It was recognisably of Somerset Maugham vintage, and in the evening men wore white dinner jackets and black ties despite the heat and humidity. I wore Malay sarongs at home, and Red Sea rig when I had to go out and dine. For the uninitiated that was black slacks and cummerbund and an open-necked white shirt with short sleeves.

When I eventually came in from the cold I giggled at the gear of the promenaders in Hampstead High Street, albeit shabby and benign. I had learned that life can be colourless, perhaps even damaging, without myth and fantasy, but some of their clothes looked uncomfortable or impractical. And occasionally there seemed to be no reason to wear them except as a challenge to convention.

This is probably where many male readers of *The Times* part company with modern fashions. I suspect that most of us do not feel compelled to challenge convention in such an obvious

way. In any case, apart from weekends and vacations, most of us have to conform. We live and work in a jacketed society. To turn up, say, at any embassy luncheon in jeans and a turtle-neck sweater would only embarrass the host.

The alternative does not have to be dull uniformity. One of these days a well-tailored bush-shirt will be accepted as suitable summer wear in the Palace of Westminster, the courts, offices and clubs, and until that happy day dawns we can wear poplin or seersucker suits. They are more readily available in New York than in London, but cannot be beaten for good looks and casual comfort.

We cannot, of course, wear such clothes in winter, or in much of spring and autumn, but deadening uniformity can still be avoided. We could return to fine tailoring, to well-cut suits, school or regimental ties, howlers or those soft felts which only English hatmakers can make, gloves, sticks or umbrellas—the lot.

This is my latest fantasy. An inner voice warns that it is not for me, but how good we would look compared to the shambling, onkpet mob which dispoil London's once attractive side-walks.

Prudence Glynn is on holiday.

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BERNARD THORPE & PARTNERS

LIMPSFIELD CHART, SURREY

A GEORGIAN STYLE RESIDENCE built about 1927 and recently the subject of a comprehensive and sophisticated internal re-design and fitting programme.

Pillared entrance hall, 3 main reception rooms, fully fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, pinched bedroom suite with dressing room and bathroom, 3 further bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, (1 with separate bathroom), 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 41 acres.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

SMALLFIELD, SURREY

A CHARMING MODERNISED 15TH CENTURY FARMHOUSE together with a detached cottage set in approx. 3 acres of garden.

5 reception rooms, fully fitted kitchen, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 41 acres.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £75,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

HEVER, KENT

Close to Anne Boleyn's Castle in a delightful rural location yet less than 10 miles from London.

A PICTUREDOR FARMHOUSE with 10 reception rooms, dining room with inglenook fireplace, 5 bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £55,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

PURLEY, SURREY

In a cul de sac, having views over Purley and within 10 minutes walk of the station.

A DELICIOUS DETACHED HOUSE with 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 41 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £45,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

CROCKHILL HILL, KENT

Centrally situated in this pretty Kentish village.

A DETACHED SWEDISH-STYLE CHALEY with entrance hall, 3 main split level lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £45,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

BRISTOL CANT, KENT

Close to over 300 acres of National Trust downland.

A MODERN DETACHED HOUSE with 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £45,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

OLD OXLEY, SURREY

A DETACHED HOUSE with 3 reception rooms, through reception room, large kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £45,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

HEAD OFFICE: 1 BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD, LONDON SW1W 0QD TELEPHONE 01-834 6890

REVISED AUCTION DATE

KENNET VALLEY, BERKSHIRE

Hungford 3 miles, Newbury 6 miles, London 65 miles.

AN ATTRACTIVE MAINLY DEGRADIAN HOUSE with a number of well appointed rooms and enjoying fine views over the Kennet Valley.

Entrance hall, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, modern kitchen/breakfast room, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 41 acres.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

Joint Auctioneers:
JOHN GERRARD RALPH PAY: 127 Mount Street, London W1, Tel: 01-499 9671 or Ramsgate, Kent, Tel: 01843 5668 and
BERNARD THORPE & PARTNERS: London Office as above or STOW-ON-THE-WOLD OFFICE: Sheep Street, Tel: 01235 3731.

BRANKSOME PARK, POOLE, DORSET

Within 5 minutes walk of the beach.

FINE DETACHED RESIDENCE facing South in half an acre of easily maintained established garden.

Lounge hall, charming sitting room, dining room, cloakroom, well fitted modern kitchen, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £55,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

Joint Auctioneers:
JOHN GERRARD RALPH PAY: 127 Mount Street, London W1, Tel: 01-499 9671 or Ramsgate, Kent, Tel: 01843 5668 and
BERNARD THORPE & PARTNERS: London Office as above or STOW-ON-THE-WOLD OFFICE: Sheep Street, Tel: 01235 3731.

HEREFORD & WORCESTER

In a beautiful rural situation.

A MOST ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY COTTAGE with entrance hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £45,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

SENNYBRIDGE, NEAR BRECON

Brecon Beacons National Park.

LUXURIOUS DETACHED HOUSE. A beautifully restored historic manor house.

Banqueting hall, 3 reception rooms, modern kitchen, 10 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £45,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

GWENT

Monmouth 8 miles, A50/A40 3 miles.

A DELICIOUS DETACHED HOUSE with 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £45,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

OLD OXLEY, SURREY

A DETACHED HOUSE with 3 reception rooms, through reception room, large kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED IN EXCESS OF £45,000 FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

KENT

Gravesend 4 miles, Maidstone 16 miles, London 22 miles.

A FINE GEORGIAN FAMILY RESIDENCE with 4 reception rooms, dining room, domestic offices, entrance hall, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

Joint Auctioneers:
JOHN GERRARD RALPH PAY: 127 Mount Street, London W1, Tel: 01-499 9671 or Ramsgate, Kent, Tel: 01843 5668 and
BERNARD THORPE & PARTNERS: London Office as above or STOW-ON-THE-WOLD OFFICE: Sheep Street, Tel: 01235 3731.

HAMPSHIRE—WEST MEON

Alton 8 miles, Winchester 5, London 60.

A WELL APPOINTED MODERN HOUSE with entrance hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

Joint Auctioneers:
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BERNARD THORPE & PARTNERS: London Office as above or STOW-ON-THE-WOLD OFFICE: Sheep Street, Tel: 01235 3731.

SUSSEX

Robertsbridge 3 miles, Tunbridge Wells 12 miles, London 32 miles.

AN EXCELLENT FARMHOUSE with recent additions.

Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

PEEBLES—SHIRE

Edinburgh 28 miles, Peebles 10, Glasgow 40.

A COMFORTABLE COUNTRY HOUSE well modernised and enjoying outstanding views over upland countryside towards Drumeller Law.

Entrance hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

ABERGAVENNY

Commanding fine views over the Usk Valley.

A DETACHED RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER including a self contained flat.

Hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

WARWICKSHIRE—EDGE OF COVENTRY

Shirley 12 miles, Coventry 12, London 119.

AN ATTRACTIVE PERIOD COUNTRY COTTAGE with entrance hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

DEVON

Holworthy 4 miles, Launceston 12, Exeter 14 miles.

VALUABLE ACCREDITED COMMERCIAL DIARY AND STOCK FARM.

Perfect Farmhouse, Secondary Farmhouse, Cattle/Shed Cottage, Extensive range of lambing buildings including dairy unit, cubicles, etc.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

Joint Auctioneers:
JOHN GERRARD RALPH PAY: 127 Mount Street, London W1, Tel: 01-499 9671 or Ramsgate, Kent, Tel: 01843 5668 and
BERNARD THORPE & PARTNERS: London Office as above or STOW-ON-THE-WOLD OFFICE: Sheep Street, Tel: 01235 3731.

STAFFORDSHIRE—MAYNELL HUNT

Lichfield 8 miles, Burton 9, Birmingham 30.

LUXURIOUS MODERN FAMILY HOUSE with 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

Joint Auctioneers:
JOHN GERRARD RALPH PAY: 127 Mount Street, London W1, Tel: 01-499 9671 or Ramsgate, Kent, Tel: 01843 5668 and
BERNARD THORPE & PARTNERS: London Office as above or STOW-ON-THE-WOLD OFFICE: Sheep Street, Tel: 01235 3731.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Stroud 4 miles, Cirencester 3, Gloucester 13.

SPACIOUS SOUTH-FACING FARMHOUSE with 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

WARWICKSHIRE—WEST MIDLANDS BORDER

Kenilworth 5 miles, Coventry 7, Birmingham 12.

A DETACHED PERIOD COUNTRY HOUSE with entrance hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE

Stour 5 miles, Stratford 7, Birmingham 32.

ATTRACTIVE SPACIOUS FARMHOUSE with 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE—BANKS OF THE SEVERN

Stour 5 miles, Stratford 7, Birmingham 32.

ATTRACTIVE PERIOD COUNTRY COTTAGE with entrance hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, various outbuildings, 21 acres of grounds.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

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OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD. OXLEY OFFICE: as below.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMPANIES ACT 1948 in the Matter of GRANTVILLE LIMITED, a company limited by shares, the share capital of which is divided into 100 shares of £1 each, and of which the following are the names and addresses of the shareholders as at the date of the first meeting of the Board of Directors held on 15th March 1978.

GRANTVILLE LIMITED, 10th March 1978, at Room 200, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London WC1V 6LP at 2.00 o'clock.

CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 2.30 o'clock.

L. R. BATES, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

THE COMPANIES ACT 1948 in the Matter of WEST VIEW PLANT LIMITED, a company limited by shares, the share capital of which is divided into 100 shares of £1 each, and of which the following are the names and addresses of the shareholders as at the date of the first meeting of the Board of Directors held on 15th March 1978.

WEST VIEW PLANT LIMITED, 10th March 1978, at Room 200, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London WC1V 6LP at 2.00 o'clock.

CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 2.30 o'clock.

L. R. BATES, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

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CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
Ministry for Energy and the Petrochemical Industry
SONATRACH Corporation

INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER

International tenders are invited to supervise the execution of the Arzew 2 Lubricants Project at Arzew, Algeria.

The invitation to tender is intended to provide for the supervision and follow-up of the works undertaken by the contractor in charge of the Arzew 2 Lubricants Project, in the following fields:

- research, design and execution
- planning and programming
- costs and financial controls

Tender documents may be obtained from Arzew 2 Lubricants Project, SONATRACH, Engineering and Development Division, 10 rue du Sahara, Hydra-Alger, Algeria.

Tenders should be deposited by 12 noon on 30th March, 1978, the postmark being decisive.

Bidders shall be bound by their tenders for ninety (90) days from the date tenders are deposited.

EDUCATIONAL

By direction of the Secretary of the State for Education, Mr. R. P. RILEY, Director, H.M. Schools, London, W.C.1.

RELIANCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

RELIANCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES, 140 Signet St., S.W.1.

RELIANCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES, 140 Signet St., S.W.1.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PROTECTION OF BORNS ACTS 1954-1957. The Secretary of State for Education, Mr. R. P. RILEY, Director, H.M. Schools, London, W.C.1.

CITY OF NEWCASTLE

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL, 10th March 1978, at Room 200, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London WC1V 6LP at 2.00 o'clock.

EDUCATIONAL

DIPLOMA in Television Studies, 10th March 1978, at Room 200, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London WC1V 6LP at 2.00 o'clock.

LEGAL NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

Should blasphemy be an offence?

At first sight Lord Will's Blasphemy Bill, which has its second reading in the House of Lords today, looks like a matter of mainly antiquarian interest. Among the long defunct statutes that it seeks to repeal are the Act of Uniformity of 1558 and a measure of 1745 providing that those guilty of profane cursing or swearing should be fined five shillings, two shillings, or one shilling, according to the social status.

As the recent prosecution of *Gay News* has shown, however, blasphemy is still a live issue. The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1967 abolished the 1697 Blasphemy Act which made it an offence, punishable by up to three years imprisonment, for anyone brought up as a Christian to deny the truth of the Christian religion. Blasphemy remains, however, as a common law offence and it is under the common law that most prosecutions have been brought during the past 300 years.

During the Middle Ages blasphemy, in common with other religious crimes, came under the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts. The Tudors tried blasphemy in civil courts only if it involved a challenge to political authority. It was not until the virtual abolition of ecclesiastical jurisdiction after the Restoration of 1660 that blasphemy came to be established as a common law offence.

The jurisdiction of the common law over the expression of unorthodox religious opinion was established in 1676 in the case of John Taylor, who had paraded through the streets of Guildford proclaiming that "Religion is a lie". Taylor's trial, the Lord Chief Justice, Matthew Hale, ruled that blasphemy was not only an offence to God and religion but a crime against the laws, the state and the government, since the Christian religion was part of the law of the land. Taylor was fined, imprisoned until he could find surety of good behaviour, and sentenced to stand in the pillory in Westminster Palace yard with a paper on his head inscribed with the charge "a blasphemous and seditious libel, tending to the subversion of all government".

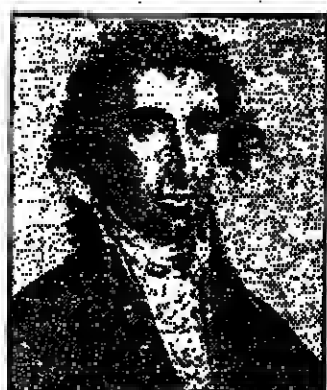
Hale's ruling established the legal definition of blasphemy for the next 200 years. With the final abolition of the crime of heresy in 1677, the offence of blasphemy came to be interpreted as any denial of the truth of Christianity or biblical statements as well as attacks on God or Christ. In 1728 the deist Thomas Woolston was imprisoned for five years for denying the miracles of Christ.

Prosecutions for blasphemy, which could be brought privately or by the state, were particularly numerous in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The Evangelical Revival had led to the development of moral reform movements, the most active of which was the Society for the Suppression of Vice established in 1802. In 1823 William Wilberforce proudly told Parliament that the society had already brought 32 successful prosecutions for blasphemy against works "which either suggest doubts respecting the truth of Revelation or infuse principles unfavourable to virtue".

The most famous of the society's prosecutions was that brought in 1819 against Richard Carlile for republishing Thomas Paine's atheistic tract, *The Age of Reason*. Carlile was held in prison for six years for the offence, and his wife and sister were both imprisoned for two years for selling the work. Shelley's works were also the subject of several successful prosecutions by the society.

The prosecutions against the works of Shelley and Paine were brought under two recently enacted laws: the Libel Act of 1792, which brought the publication of blasphemous material within the compass of the law of defamation, and the Blasphemous and Seditious Libels Act of 1819. Both measures indicated a feeling on the part of the authorities, which persisted well into the nineteenth century, that blasphemy should be treated as a challenge to law and order, as well as to religion.

In 1840, Sir John Campbell, the Attorney General, announced that he was bringing a



Thomas Paine

prosecution against a book that cast doubt on the veracity of Christianity, because "the vast bulk of the populace believes that morality depends on Revelation, and if a doubt could be raised among them that the commandments were given by God from Mount Sinai, men would think that they were at liberty to steal and women would consider themselves absolved from the restraints of chastity".

The leading Victorian free-thinkers were frequently well secured for blasphemy. In 1842 G. J. Holyoake, the founder of the secularist movement in Britain, was sentenced to six months imprisonment for suggesting, in a speech at Cheltenham, that the Devil should be put on half pay because of the country's economic plight. In 1883 G. W. Foote, editor of *The Freethinker*, was imprisoned for a year for blasphemous libel. Significantly, the Government had refused to bring a prosecution against his newspaper for publishing cartoons lampooning religion. The Home Secretary, Sir William Harcourt, felt that "more harm than advantage is produced to public morals by Government prosecutions of this kind".

At Foote's trial Lord Chief Justice Coleridge redefined the law of blasphemy. He ruled that a mere denial of the truth of Christianity was not enough to constitute a criminal offence. Blasphemy was rather something "calculated to excite the feelings and deeper religious convictions of the great majority of the persons among whom we live".

Foote's imprisonment led to a movement to repeal the blasphemy laws. A Bill to abolish the offence of blasphemy, drafted by James Fitzmaurice Ker and introduced in Parliament by Charles Bradlaugh in 1889. Further Bills were introduced in the early years of the twentieth century but, despite receiving the support of Asquith, they were unsuccessful.

There was a spate of successful prosecutions for blasphemy in the first two decades of this century. The last, until the *Gay News* case, involved J. W. Goss, who was sentenced to nine months' hard labour in 1921 for distributing publications entitled "God and God" and "Rib Ticklers" which suggested, among other things, that Christ entered Jerusalem in the manner of a circus clown.

At Goss's unsuccessful appeal, blasphemy was further redefined as material that was "offensive to anyone in sympathy with the Christian religion, whether he be a sincere Christian or a lukewarm Christian, or merely a person sympathizing with their ideals who might be provoked to a breach of the peace".

Goss's case led to the establishment of a Society for the Abolition of the Blasphemy Laws. In 1920 the Society's Amendment Bill was given a second reading in the House of Commons but was later dropped. The society was disbanded in 1959. Last year, after the *Gay News* case, a committee was set up to press once again for the abolition of the offence of blasphemy.

Its supporters include three leading churchmen, Dr John Robison, Professor G. W. H. Lampe, and the Very Rev Alfred Jowett, Dean of Manchester, as well as MPs, writers and Lord Gardner, the former Lord Chancellor. It will be interesting to see whether its campaign, and Lord Will's Bill, are any more successful than the other attempts that have been made over the past 100 years to rid Britain of its blasphemy laws.

Ian Bradley

Political parties in democracies live and learn from each other far more than they ever admit. Conservative governments preside quite bapfully over welfare societies. Socialists have learned to see the merits of competing political parties and a mixed economy as preferable to their old utopia of a simple socialist state.

In this century, however, we have become generally more conscious of the march of socialist ideas towards collectivism than of the success of conservative counter-arguments for individual self-reliance. Yet it becomes increasingly evident that even on the left of the Labour Party, socialist politicians have been fast absorbing ideas that were once obnoxious to left-wing sentiment.

The present Labour Government is, of course, already acting on ideas more fashionable on the so-called right of the Conservative Party than on its so-called moderate wing. While Mr Heath and Mr Peter Walker seem to regard monetarism as a fearful heresy associated with their own fall and Mrs Thatcher's rise, Mr Denis Healey, with the full support of Mr Callaghan, has built his policy for recovery largely on a strict view of monetary control.

However, such plagiarism is more often practised than preached in the Labour Party. It is therefore a remarkable event when ideas which could easily be voiced in the context of Conservative philosophy are systematically deployed by a Labour Cabinet minister of noble intellectual ability, who is usually associated with the party's left-of-centre position, and whose rise to influence has been a notable feature of recent Labour politics.

When Mr Peter Shore was first promoted by Harold Wilson to the Cabinet he did not appear as one of Labour's bright hopes. From a lack of interest in him the kind of remark that he observed, understandable, "Paradoxically, however, there has been no offsetting heightening of morale, no new optimism about the future among those who have been the principal beneficiaries of the social and other changes we have described".

There has therefore emerged, Mr Shore believes, a "major gap" between the needs of Britain, and the understanding, attitudes and values of its people. Those who influence investment and who can create an atmosphere of "confidence" are increasingly defeated. Equally, the trade unions, having lost power equal to management have yet to win a new role, and assume the new responsibilities which their strength demands. "And until they do, their role, collective bargaining on

behalf of their members, will become increasingly sterile". Mr Shore then points out (again like any Tory) that strong trade unions can obtain a share of wages and salaries "which ensures that the residual profit is not much in excess (and sometimes less) of what the enterprise needs to spend on capital equipment to secure its own future". Most people who have gained from distribution, he says, are still strongly influenced—perhaps today even more strongly than in the era of laissez faire—by group and individual acquisitiveness when the new society requires values of a different kind.

You may think from this last remark that when Mr Shore goes on to outline the important changes required (and which Labour must make) he will do so in some utopian way which disregards the reality of a man's wish for financial incentives. Not a bit of it. Having (in my view rightly) stated that we shall not get the increased effort needed unless unemployment is seen to fall, and that we must aim at productivity and investment in advance of any substantial increase of domestic demand (there is a hint of Mr Shore's preference for import controls here) he calls for union self-restraint and makes this remarkable statement:

"Nothing would help more than the recognition of two major propositions: first, that there is far more real income and wealth to be gained for Britain by increasing its share of world trade than by its major change in group relativities secured by collective bargaining inside Britain itself; and second that when the share of profit has been reduced to whatever level is agreed to be necessary for financing further investment, wage and salary claims or what is left over can only be about the share of different occupational or bargaining groups in the total available for all such groups."

In other words... collective bargaining is today basically about group relativities. And the real parties to the bargain and the negotiations are not trade union and employer but the claiming trade union on the one hand, and the public including all the other trade unions on the other who are absent from the bargaining table.

What private enterprise businessmen could fault that observation? But Mr Shore went much further. We must, he said, "operate more strongly upon all the complex motivations that influence the performance of people at work. Even in a democratic and egalitarian society... we should recognize that financial incentives will play an important part."

Indeed, we know of no society—capitalist, communist or mixed—in which they do not. Nor should we (he means, I suppose, the Labour Party) be inhibited about the role of incentives. For it is right that effort should be rewarded, and so should skill and responsibility, danger and risk. And we should remember too that earning is not just a matter of satisfying individual desires: it is for most people the main way in which they can assist their own families, those who have the greatest claim upon their affection and effort.

"In the fight against hyper-inflation... necessary differentials (not just historic ones) have in fact been compressed and distorted, and the whole system has been unmoored, particularly the lower paid, far more deeply in the net than anyone planned or indeed wished."

That is a statement which could be made by Mrs Thatcher, and approved by the Institute of Economic Affairs. It is true that Mr Shore goes on to make the point that there is "no evidence" to suggest that the incidence of taxation can be correlated with national performance and therefore calls in aid non-financial incentives such as the interest of the job, the dignity of labour, service to the community and so on.

Yet why did he raise the financial incentives if they are not important. And by what kind of logic can Mr Shore condemn the Conservatives for blaming decline on the lack of material incentives and on high tax-

Ronald Butt

Shoring up the Labour Party



Mr Peter Shore: a new approach, but will it save the government?

The other day, Mr Shore gave the Lady Morgan Memorial Lecture to the Cardiff Fabian Society. He analysed the decline of Britain during 20 years in which our share of world trade has virtually halved and in which every other industrialized country has done better than we have. Acknowledging the grave psychological damage this has done to the British people, he discussed the vain attempts that have been made to overcome it—including the assumption by all parties in the sixties that institutional and commercial "business" was the answer, which events have proved to be wholly false.

He also dismissed the "myths" of the political right that laid the blame on trade union power and on the loss of material incentives which have resulted from the pursuit of equality. As for the idea that the EEC would solve our problems, that (he naturally thought) had failed as much as Mr Heath's Selsdon programme did.

So how does Mr Shore himself explain the nation's decline? The answer is very much as any Tory would. His culprits are the failure of management to invest and modernize and of unions to overcome their fear and their resistance to change. He lays great blame on our attachment to a fixed exchange rate between 1949 and 1967, and so misreading our chance of expanding with world trade in these years. As much as any Tory, he also recognizes that there has been a steady loss of social cohesion and national purpose.

Unions yet to win a new role

He then makes a singularly candid statement about the failure of our redistribution of wealth to remedy this. The gloom of those who had held wealth and power and have lost them is, he observes, understandable. "Paradoxically, however, there has been no offsetting heightening of morale, no new optimism about the future among those who have been the principal beneficiaries of the social and other changes we have described."

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Guatemala: playing down the British connexion



Rivals for power: Colonel Anurida, the most militant, and General Garcia, backed by the President.



deaths and disappearances since 1966.

The two sectors which have suffered most from the rightists are the urban trade union movement and the peasantry. The victims of the guerrillas are men like Señor Roberto Herrera, a former minister and a member of one of Guatemala's richest families, who was kidnapped on December 31 and released a few weeks later after the payment of a large ransom, the publication of a guerrilla statement and the release of a guerrilla from prison.

Guatemala is an extraordinarily beautiful country with a population of some six million, nearly half of whom are pure Indian and direct descendants of the ancient Mayas. Like other Latin American countries, it has a relatively small ruling class, who have been hostile to reform, and a large peasant population, most of whom barely scratch a living. There were certain improvements after President Luger took office in 1974—more rights for trade unions and a reduction in violence by the rightist groups. But the tensions were exacerbated again by the catastrophic earthquakes in 1976, in which more than 22,000 people were killed and more than a million were made homeless.

A recent report from Guatemala quoted a local journalist as saying: "Violence has become a way of life here. There must be half a dozen or so killings every week. But it has reached the stage now where it is very hard to pick out the political killing from the purely criminal or the persons who are detra. It has all got mixed up together".

Peter Stratford

THE TIMES DIARY / PHS

Milestones on the road to a royal centenary

Princess Alice, Countess of Atholone, the oldest member that the British Royal House has ever had, is 95 on Saturday. As usual, she will celebrate her birthday abroad.

Devotees of the princess—and there are many—will note that there are two significant milestones on the road to her centenary on Friday, February 25, 1983.

The first is the attainment of the 98 years 206 days of Princess Alicia of Borbone, a descendant of King Carlos IV of Spain. She died on January 20, 1975, having set the record as the oldest member of a European royal house ever to have worn out the printers of aristocratic scud-books.

Princess Alice will reach this point on Friday, September 18, 1981. She can progress along the path to Monday, June 21, 1982, when she will equal the 99 years 118 days of Princess Marie Romanovsky-Krassinsky, the ballerina and a former mis-

stress of Tsar Nicholas of Russia, who died in Paris on December 7, 1971.

As the ballerina only married into the family, her record must be suitably qualified.

Signal honours

Dr Magnus Pyke, that semaphoric scientist, was speaking yesterday about "the lovely beach of a satisfied appetite". Aply, his comment came in a post-prandial speech. The lunch was given by Kentucky Fried Chicken, and the occasion was the presentation to Jane Grierson for her *English Food* and *Sheila Hutchings* for her *Daily Express* articles—of prizes in the winners of the finger lickin' firm's competition to find the Food Writer of the Year.

For some reason I cannot recall, though I think it had to do with manual dexterity in the kitchen, Dr Pyke got on to the subject of Yehudi Menuhin. "You can't live on fiddle playing, but you can live on meals", he said.

There is, in King Street, Hammersmith, west London, a dentist called Mr Phang and an optician called Mr Seymour.



The Girl of the Frozen West

Add Pilton to the list of West Country villages that will deserve a line or two when the full story of February is told. This normally pleasant Somerset spot is where Gillian Knight, the mezzo soprano lives.

Miss Knight was snowbound there when she ought to have been in London, getting ready to rehearse her role of Suzuki in last night's performance of *Madame Butterfly* at Covent Garden.

Efforts to extricate her, too numerous and too various to mention, eventually focused on a helicopter flown from Andover. But where, in all that whiteness, could it land?

Miss Knight and spouse set fire to a bale of straw in a field, and before you could say *Giacomo Puccini*, the opera singer was airborne to a rousing cheer off from the good people of Pilton.

Before abandoning the weather theme, I must tell you that the siege of the Blue Lion at Lewdown in snow-choked Devon, which I first reported on Tuesday, has been lifted. Six intrepid adventurers who were trapped at this delightful hostelry on the edge of Dartmoor finally made their escape through the frozen wastes to civilization after being imprisoned in the saloon bar for four days.

When water and power were restored, the three women in the party took their first bath for three days. The gentlemen had gallantly given way in the rush to the bathroom and retired to the bar.

Coals to Newcastle variation: though ducks are plentiful along the Thames near Kingston, two dozen quackers were brought along by the crew shooting a television commercial there yesterday. The resident birds were too unpredictable, swimming off just when they were needed, said producer Theodore De Rose. The film ends with a picknicking wife saying to her husband: "I see you're pulling in the birds again." The local branch of the family Anasidae would have made that line impossible.

Those popular off-peak bills

A scheme in which hotel guests at the tiny Swiss winter resort of Grächen (5,300 ft) were told to pay as much or as little as they wanted has, not surprisingly, proved a resounding success.

In an attempt to fill what the winter sports industry calls the "trough de janvier" when resorts experience a post-Christmas and New Year depression—the local tourist office announced that visitors could write their own bills. The result was an extra 600 clients for the 17 out of 21 hotels in Grächen which took part in the scheme.

Visitors were given a prospectus of charges for "guidance", and, interestingly, there was little abuse of the *la carte blanche* offer.

Apart from two West German models, heavily photographed throughout their stay by a magazine, who paid one franc each on departure, only one person in 10 entered amounts below the indicated charges.

The offer will not be repeated next year, however.

The prince and the columnist

Anthony Holden makes no secret of the fact that he is *Atticus of The Sunday Times*. (I, on the other hand, am not forthcoming about my identity. It is not who I am so much as what I say that matters.)

It is under his real name that Mr Holden (born Southampton, editor of *Isis*) is writing a biography of the Prince of Wales in between doing English translations of *The Bacchae* and *Medea* for Cambridge University Press. How does he find time to be *Atticus*?

Columnist and prince seem to have established a relaxed relationship, which augurs well for the book.

Mr Holden tells me he was the only pressman on board the aircraft which took the prince to Canada last autumn. The

Although South Africa has quit the Commonwealth, a take away restaurant near the offices of the Cape Times in Cape Town still does a brisk trade in hot steak and kidney pie, sausage rolls and Cornish pasties. And in the city's parliament building, very good coffee is served in English-made china—unlike the House of Commons in London where hot beverages usually come in German-made cups.

film Logan's Run, with Jenny Agutter, was shown during the flight. Mr Holden thought it was dreadful and so did the prince and they both said so.

Then why did the prince watch it? "Because I'm rather an admirer of Jenny Agutter", he said.

In *Atticus* that weekend, Mr Holden quoted a rumour of a new royal romance.

Not long afterwards, prince and columnist met again. Did the prince approve of what he had written? asked Mr Holden. Yes, it was amusing. He did not normally read *Atticus*, "but my mother cut it out and kept it for me." Now he reads the columnist regularly.

Next month the prince tours Brazil and Venezuela. The eyes and ears of Mr Holden will go along, too.



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IE NEUTRON BOMB

neutron bomb, which Mr. Han discussed in the House of Commons on Tuesday, is very unpleasant weapon. It can be given slightly reassuring titles, such as "enhanced radiation" (ERW) but it remains a neutron bomb. It kills and maims by radiation, which means it is a weapon which should be used without careful consideration and proper respect for human feelings. At the same time it cannot be used on grounds of revulsion. It presents a problem with one aspect that should not be considered, or at any rate not at its face value, is the campaign that has been waged against the weapon. Campaign has been carefully tried to play upon the illogicalities of the West. Mr. Han and his colleagues tried to take out a moral right on the issue, present themselves as profoundly concerned about saving humanity from this new threat to the United States. A few people have been taken to a Marxist aspect by emphasizing the bomb kills people (which is good) while sparing the land (which is bad). It could be said to kill lists while sparing the production of the future. The whole argument is specious. The fact is that the Russians aim at moral standing in the world. They are busy using SS20 missiles, each with three independent warheads aimed at Western Europe. These do far more damage and kill more people than the neutron bomb. The Russians are preparing for chemical warfare which is in no way less horrifying or more moral than radiation. It is easy to see that the Russians feel short of issues from which to extract moral credit but this one is not the answer to their problem.

The real reason for their campaign is not that they are people of superior sensitivity or deeper concern for the future of mankind. The real reason is that they see their big superiority in tanks in Europe (about three to one over Nato) threatened by neutralization by a combination of new technology in the conventional weaponry of the West and the probable deployment of the neutron bomb. For the military value of the neutron bomb is that it stops tanks by killing the crews inside. It is particularly effective against the sort of massed tank attacks which the Russians practice in their manoeuvres. It does not destroy the entire environment with blast, and it does not sterilize large areas with long-term radiation. Thus it is in some ways less destructive and less terrible than the tactical nuclear weapons already deployed.

Arguments about whether it takes us into new realms of horror or over new thresholds of atrocity are therefore impossible to resolve. Ordinary nuclear weapons are horrible; neutron bombs are horrible; war itself is altogether horrible. Sensibilities may already be more blunted than they should be to the destruction that can now be unleashed at the touch of a button but this in itself is not sufficient reason for recoiling from the neutron bomb. Though must be given to whether it is likely to reduce the danger of war starting, and whether alternatives exist.

At the moment Soviet strength in Europe relies heavily on tanks which are deployed and manoeuvred in ways that prepare them for rapid incursions into Western territory. Whether this reflects aggressive designs or merely the intention of responding to any clash with an immediate counter-attack, the West needs very effective anti-tank defences to maintain a balance. Modern technology is bringing in new generations of very precise guided weapons which can hit almost anything

at the first attempt. But these weapons cannot always penetrate modern armour and they might not be able to cope with very large formations of tanks. They are unlikely to provide the entire answer. The neutron bomb would discourage close formations of tanks and make the whole idea of tank warfare a great deal less attractive. From the military point of view it is precisely what the West needs.

If war started the decision to use the neutron bomb would be easier than a decision to use other types of tactical nuclear weapons because the neutron bomb would be more precise, less generally destructive, and slightly less likely to push the whole conflict over the brink into general nuclear war. To one school of thought this increases the risk of nuclear war by making it more thinkable, but a deterrent that is more effective than one which is too terrible to use. The Russians might be made enough to gamble on the West not using ordinary nuclear weapons. They would think more carefully before gambling on the non-use of the neutron bomb. They would know that Western inhibitions were marginally fewer. This should make Europe a slightly safer place.

On balance, therefore, the argument turns in favour of going ahead with the neutron bomb. It must not be a substitute for conventional defences, especially not for the most modern conventional defences against tanks, for a neutron bomb is still a nuclear weapon and the more alternatives there are to using it the better. It is, however, in no special category distinct from other nuclear weapons, and in some ways it is a better deterrent. The West should not renounce it except as part of an arms control package. The Russians should be devoting more of their energies to working out such a package and fewer to dishonest campaigns against weapons they happen to fear. So far they have responded very inadequately to President Carter's offers to discuss reductions in nuclear weaponry, and still more inadequately to Western proposals for balanced force reductions in Europe.

REGRETTABLE BUT NECESSARY BAN

Metropolitan Police Commissioner's decision, approved by Home Secretary, to ban the proposed Front march in Ilford and on other occasions for a period of months, cannot have been any one to take. In the instances the Commissioner acted correctly, but no one is entirely happy with the ban. Sir Daniel Gwynne had the events of last year very much in mind in coming to his decision, on that occasion, an assurance that his force control that march. Sadly, proved wrong. The police unable to maintain public order, and the result—order and bitterness left on the community which yet bealed. Sir David unable to guarantee that would be free of similar. He was right not to take the ban, however, in the long run. It is a sad day for the police force, for it is a police force that is forced to take a march with only a thousand participants would be a serious public disorder (the words of the Public Order Act) which the police would be unable to control. It is not a sign of a healthy society when that admission of inadequacy by the police is founded, not on the likelihood that the disorder would be caused by the marchers themselves, but under the threat that other, opposing, forces would ensure that violence took place. The National Front's activities and the essence of its philosophy are deeply repulsive and openly provocative, and it is understandable that they attract strong and active opposition. That, in itself, is acceptable. What gives cause for concern is that a precedent is in danger of being established that the threat of violent reaction to a political demonstration is enough to cause it to be banned.

Perhaps the most important reason for tempering any satisfaction felt at the ban is that the Front will not simply go away because they have been prohibited from holding a procession. Indeed, plans have already been announced for a mass canvassing exercise in Ilford on Saturday, which could result in the same numbers of Front members being present in the area as would have participated in the march, the only

difference being that they will be dispersed and more difficult to control, as will their opponents. The provocation to the people of that community will be scarcely less, and the risk of violence by no means entirely dissipated. The Front will undoubtedly attempt to capitalize on the ban, as they have been able to do in the past, with some success, whenever they have been, as they would argue, prohibited from exercising their rights as citizens. The ban could also act to the Front's electoral advantage in Ilford, although the extent, if any, of such an effect is difficult to judge.

The ban on processions can therefore be only a temporary and limited response to the threat posed by the organization. The Front will undoubtedly find other equally provocative methods of spreading their obnoxious message. In the end, while a certain amount of law enforcement is necessary to prevent discrimination against the Front is appropriate for the reason that they are not just another political party of the same nature as their chief rivals in this by-election but a racist and anti-democratic organization, their doctrines will be countered best by proving them wrong in open political competition.

prices

Mr J. A. Shapiro, chief official of an organization for its members without them, they may err and mislead.

February issue of *Which?*, of the Consumers' Association, reports that "Last summer the Commission announced an intention to take this opportunity to set up a date assessment of their book price fixing really the consumer's interest, and submitting our views to the Commission. What are we to do? We? Is it the or of the CA, or is Council? Lord Boyle and Zuckerman, Jeffrey Howe and Mrs Shirley; are they consulted?

Many members, who fund the surely entitled to know how also why they were not. When the CA directorate to ascertain the best service organizations for, or performance, eg. television sets or dishwashers, they want the number of provincial bookshops to sell further? As *Which?* is: "Since 1962, bookshops

have declined in number anywhere (my italics)—but more and more of other types are selling books."

The suggestion that bookshop closures should be encouraged is appalling. Abolition of resale price maintenance has driven small shopkeepers of many kinds of wares to close. If that were not extended to bookshops, department stores and supermarkets would stock paperbacks for the million, but few other books. Except in London and the bigger provincial universities towns many bookshops might become less makers and close and anyone living outside such towns would lose the opportunity to scan the shelves of a reasonably stocked bookshop trying to encourage readers of "minority interest" books."

One lesson from this CA announcement is that an organization claiming to represent members' views at any inquiry should always be asked whether its members had been consulted and, if so, to report the procedure followed and percentage of support for the recommendations presented.

Yours truly,
J. A. SHAPIRO,
93 Oakfield Road,
Selly Park,
Birmingham.

quoted, on behalf of the United Jewish Council, saying that the findings "would show that converts to Christianity had not been subjected to improper inducements while those embracing Judaism had been under some pressure."

What actually said was: "None of the Christian Churches known to us employ material benefits to entice a person to change his religion. We do, however, know of some cases where pressure has been put on non-Jews to convert to Judaism."

He pointed to the fact that whereas under ten years ago converts to Christianity were even questioned by the Jewish community, now they are not. When questioned further, he added: "We repeat our opposition to any dishonest means to induce conversion. Should it be proved that Christians have been involved in acts of enticement leading to conversions, the United Jewish Council would strongly protest such activities and demand internal disciplinary action. But even were proof of such actions to emerge, they would not, in our view, justify the enactment of such a loosely worded criminal code with its wider implications for the whole of Jewish society."

We would appreciate the courtesy of your columns to indicate that our objections and concerns as in the new law, shared by many Jews in Israel and abroad, are not based on one-sidedness, frivolity or vindictiveness, but on most serious considerations which have now been presented to Israel's Attorney-General for his response.

Yours faithfully,
ROY KREIDER (Vice-Chairman),
PAUL SWARR (Secretary-General),
United Jewish Council in Israel,
PO Box 116,
Jerusalem.
February 13.

The repatriation of Russian prisoners

From Mr H. Myers

Sir, Perhaps you will allow a humble ranker who was a British prisoner of war in the path of the advancing Russians to put just one point in defence of the execution by the Russians of those of their former soldiers who had gone over to the German army.

Soldiers everywhere, even "simple peasants", understand that when, in time of war, they take their oath of allegiance and do the uniform of their country's armed forces, they put their lives on the line. If, subsequently, a soldier, whatever the circumstances, deserts to the enemy, puts on the uniform of that enemy and joins with him in battle against his own army, there is only one recognized punishment if the traitor is eventually captured by his own former fellow soldiers: death.

I was held prisoner in occupied Poland at the time of the Russian breakthrough at Allenstein. I well remember the remarkable sight of a unit of Russians, in German uniform, broken and morale shattered, fleeing for their lives from their own army, and avenging Russian army, then only two days march away. I can only say that my fellow prisoners and myself took a grim satisfaction at the prospect of the fate that awaited them when they were finally taken.

I think your sympathy for these traitors is misplaced. A soldier who turns traitor in war time in a gamble to finish up on the winning side (and for quite a long time it looked as if desertion was going to be the winning side) is not entitled to sympathy. He who dices with death can expect no mercy if the same turns against him.

Treason is not acceptable even to us. We executed Joyce and Asquith for treason and they were civilians. We have abolished the death penalty for all crimes other than that of treason for which it remains the penalty.

My observations extend only to those Russian soldiers who turned traitor and changed sides. I have no desire to justify the Russian treatment of women and children or of disabled civilians, nor do I have anything but detestation for the present Russian regime.

Nevertheless, to attempt to gloss over the desertion in war time, as you seem to do (leading article, February 20), is to insult the memory of those thousands of our soldiers, sailors and airmen whose loyalty led them to make the supreme sacrifice.

Yours sincerely,
H. MYERS,
ex POW 6123,
98 Fellows Lane,
Harborne,
Birmingham.
February 20.

extension vis-à-vis Stalin of the same kind of appeasement policy that many of our statesmen, supported by a large section of the public, favoured carrying out vis-à-vis Hitler before 1939. Just as we were ready to sacrifice Czechs before the war, so we were ready to sacrifice Russians who happened to find themselves outside the area occupied by the Red Army.

If we still think we are justified in pointing a finger at those Germans who, we assume, committed at the SS death camps for Jews and others we should hang our heads in shame at a crime our vastly different for which this country was responsible—sending millions of Russians (or people, like citizens of the Reich, forcibly included in Soviet Russia) to death, torture or virtual slavery in conditions of extreme inhumanity. The only excuse that most of us have is that we didn't know any more about it than most Germans knew about the death camps.

Yours truly,
R. C. MOWAT,
20 Highfield Avenue,
Readington,
Oxford.
February 21.

From Mr Charles Janson

Sir, Your leading article (February 20) asks the British nation to bark back to the forcible repatriation of Soviet citizens in British hands after the last world war. This measure was quite certainly not a crime. It was a necessary series of blind and feeble acts that characterized our foreign policy from the early thirties (Rhine, Runciman mission to Prague, Yalta). Let us admit squarely that high policy has not been our forte in the twentieth century.

One of the habits of a decadent public opinion is to seek scapegoats for past disasters rather than confront its present enemy. Britain's "responses to the present" will not, I suggest, be quickened by the carpeting of knighted old age pensioners. As to Parliament, if it still purports to be the conscience of the nation, let it quicken us by taking a serious interest in the lethal conflict already in progress and insist that our country defend itself and the West. Anti-mortems are surely more profitable than post-mortems at this moment of our history.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES JANSON,
39 Edwards Square, W8.
February 21.

From Mr G. C. S. Gates

Sir, Your editorial "On Britain's Conscience" (February 20) stated the position admirably. It was the USSR that perpetrated the crime. The responsible men here should certainly be exposed; should we not also adjust our view of the Soviet Union to take into account this and similar atrocities?

Yours faithfully,
G. C. S. GATES,
Cliffe House,
Jagers Lane,
Hathersage,
Sheffield.
February 20.

Rugby football penalties

From Lord Wakefield of Kendal

Sir, We are now in the middle of the Rugby Union International Championship, and next month the International Board will hold their annual meeting to consider amongst other matters possible changes in the laws of the game.

It is the responsibility and the duty of the International Board to try and make Rugby Union football a more enjoyable and profitable game to play and watch. As the laws stand at present the punishment for foul play or persistent infringement, ie. deliberate cheating, can be severe or less than nothing, depending upon a number of factors such as whether the place of infringement is in easy reach for kicking, a goal, or difficult from near the touchline, or impossible because of distance. Other variable factors depend upon there being a good goal kicker in the team, wet or dry conditions, playing with or against the wind, and so on. This is quite ridiculous and manifestly unfair.

The punishment for such an offence ought to be the same wherever it takes place on the field of play, and should be severe. The reform is simple and easy. All that is needed is for a kick in goal and the non-offending side three points, and for the game to be restarted at the centre of the field by a scrum.

The principle of the referee awarding points already exists. In law 12 it is stated that a penalty try shall be awarded between the posts if, but for obstruction, unfair play, foul play or misconduct by the offending team, a try would probably have been scored. In effect he awards four points to the non-offending side, with a further opportunity to win another two points from a kick in front of goal.

The proposed reform would ease the task of referees. There would be less need for referees to warn, or send players off the field for foul play, the clubs would do it for them. It would become too expensive to select players who continually gave away three points, and the game would be the better for their absence from the field of play.

Such a reform as proposed is long overdue. If there are reasons why such a reform should not be made, what are they? Players and supporters of the game are entitled to know. There are no reasons then clearly the International Board are failing in their responsibility and duty to make Rugby Union football a fairer, better and more enjoyable game to play and to watch, by taking up action.

Yours faithfully,
WAKEFIELD OF KENDAL,
Past President of the Rugby Football Union,
71 Park Street, W1.
February 21.

Plight of the landlord

From Miss Sarah M. Radcliffe

Sir, Bruce Douglas-Mann's letter (February 20) is yet another example of the politicians' ignorance of the practical results of ideological legislation. No right thinking person would question the premise that once an estate in land is granted there should be restrictions on the rights of the grantor to end it. However to state that a landlord who does not make a profit is either incompetent or philanthropic is nonsense.

The simple fact is that a landlord is not able to pass on to a tenant the cost of repairs which he is obliged to carry out under the Housing Act, 1961. Moreover he can only pass on a proportion of the increase in the cost of services or furniture provided and the cost of improvements to the property. With older houses the cost of such repairs and improvements can easily exceed the income from rents.

Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann also states that there need be no difficulty in evicting a no-pay tenant. In fact the court will only order possession on the ground that a tenant is in arrears if it thinks it reasonable to do so, which is a far cry from saying it must do so. In addition the landlord has to wait, before he will get such an order, for a notice to quit to expire (28 days), and then for a hearing date at the county court (up to six weeks). If the tenant is a man of straw the landlord will probably

lose, in addition to accrued arrears, at least a further ten weeks' rent.

Such are the complexities of Rent Act legislation that a landlord cannot hope to take any action against a tenant without legal advice, which advice, because of the acknowledged complexity of the law, may well cost the landlord as much as the arrears which he attempts to recoup.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH M. RADCLIFFE,
50 Princes Gate Mews, SW7.

Half term variations

From Mrs W. M. A. Wright

Sir, As a working mother with four children, all at different schools, I would like to put in a plea for maintaining the discrepancy in half term dates.

I feel it is in the best interests of the child from a large family to have occasional undivided attention from parents, away from the rivalry and pressures from siblings. An individual half term provides an ideal uncontrolled opportunity for this.

It seems to me that the aims of the group of London parents calling themselves the Half Term Movement are purely for the convenience of mothers and would provide yet another goal of uniformity in our increasingly regimented existence.

Yours faithfully,
PENILOPE WRIGHT,
The Moor,
Hastings,
East Sussex.

Opposing the National Front

From Mr D. Hunt, and others

Sir, We view with increasing sadness the tendency to discuss the banning of National Front marches and meetings in terms of the Public Order Act. To us it is but another example of the politicians' reluctance to stand up and fight for good race relations. To take recourse in the Public Order Act is to lead those who find the Front abhorrent to the conclusion that their most successful course of action lies in taking to the streets. Will it not then be hypocritical to decry the inevitable clashes with the police? Will race relations not suffer? Does political expediency not have a price?

All other political parties in Britain use freedom of speech to seek to persuade others that theirs is the correct view of society. Any man, in the light of his own experiences is free to switch his allegiance to another party. Now, a man may change his political convictions, but he is not free to change his race. From birth until death a man's race is unchangeable. Thus a political party based on race cannot persuade—it can only condemn. It has nothing positive to offer a democratic society. This is why the National Front should be banned. It is its racial doctrine that sets it apart from other political parties. In a multiracial society like Britain, the National Front can never be anything but a divisive force. Freedom of speech only allows it to be more divisive. Those of us who believe in a multiracial Britain should speak up—on principle.

Yours faithfully,
D. HUNT,
A. J. McLEAN,
D. SCOTT,
A. M. ARTHURS,
G. ADAMSON,
F. CLARKE,
West Indian Federation Association,
Community Centre,
212 Winslow Green Road,
Widmore Green,
Birmingham.

of, other races in a friendly and courteous way without insults and without rancour."

Neither do we, as you state, set up immigrants as scapegoats for all Britain's ills. To quote our manual again: "It is a complete myth that the NF blames the problems... on immigrants; it puts the blame where it properly lies—on the ineptitude of successive Labour and Tory governments."

Your editorial betrays its bias when it says: "... school authorities should not see attempts at National Front recruitment in the same tolerant light as they regard the formation, say, of Labour or Conservative societies in the schools." Having dropped all pretence of democracy by that statement, you then go on to warn that we are a "threat to democratic values"—a bigger threat, you say, "than... any organization of the Left."

This really is news! The Socialist Workers' Party has repeatedly announced that it believes the NF should be smashed by force and should not have any right to free speech, and it has committed numerous actions that prove it is as good as far up and down the country. It has attempted to prevent, by force, our activities from taking place. In contrast, we have publicly acknowledged that the SWP does have a right to free speech and we have made no attempts to smash this sort of one-way force. We, nevertheless, are a bigger threat to democratic values than they!

Ob! and not only that—the SWP's policy, you say, "appeals more to the intellect than to base violent instincts."

Your editorial goes to justify the denial to the NF of meeting halls and of normal facilities given to political parties by the broadcasting services—all once again, no doubt, because of the threat it represents to the democracy which your paper is so touchingly anxious to preserve! All this, you say, is "positively desirable, as a means of showing the deep revulsion for its sinister views felt by the vast majority of the British public."

Sir, if there is anything that strikes me as sinister it is the bung and twaddle dished out in your editorial. Can I ask one last question: must we assume that there has been a departure from your paper's policy of liberalism and fairness since its assertion, only two months ago, that we should have the right of reply to a biased and loaded Labour Party broadcast against us? If not, do I, through this letter, have the right of reply to your editorial?

Yours truly,
JOHN TYNDALL, Chairman,
National Front,
91 Connaught Road,
Teddington,
Middlesex.

From Dr S. C. Stanford

Sir, Most of us must resent the way in which the National Front has been allowed to parade its views in Birmingham on Saturday (February 18). The bricks and kerbstones, futile missiles of immigrant despair, awake memories of Polish cavalry striving against Nazi armour. We awake late then.

A few of our citizens, born beneath the same skies as the rest of us, have shown their frustration with violence and displayed their fear with desperation. Confronted by the massed ranks of police, arrayed to defend the very things which would turn our leisure safety to fright, the young street fighters have said with stones "We are afraid." All democrats must with a loud voice reassure them. The National Front must no longer be allowed to breed hatred in the very heart of our nation.

Yours faithfully,
S. C. STANFORD,
Ashfield Cottage,
Luton,
Bedfordshire.

such heavy charges to the scholars living among you, that unless you conduct yourselves with more restraint and moderation towards them in this matter, they will be driven by your exactions to leave your town and seek elsewhere their studies, leave the country, which we by no means desire."

Yours faithfully,
A. W. P. EDWARDS,
Gonville and Caius College,
Cambridge.

Israeli settlements

From Sir Anthony Nutting

Sir, No fair-minded person can fail to applaud the courage and wisdom of Sir Siegmund Werburg's letter published in your issue of February 18. As he points out, nothing could be more dangerous to the ultimate survival of Israel than the expansionist doctrines to which Mr Begin's Government seem to be wedded. As far back as the 1930s Albert Einstein, now awarded the Nobel prize, warned of the damage which "Judaism" would sustain "from the development of a narrow nationalism within our own ranks." The Jews, he said then, were "no longer the Jews of the Maccabee period."

This is no less true today. And Mr Begin would be well advised to heed Sir Siegmund's warning that, far from adding to Israel's security, "the preservation and even extension of settlements outside the territories legally belonging to Israel is a bound to expose Israel in general, and the settlers concerned in particular, to risks which are arbitrarily manufactured and senseless."

The choice for Israel, no less than for the whole of the Middle East, is between co-existence and holocaust. President Sadat has offered co-existence: it is not too late for Mr Begin to steer Israel away from the holocaust.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY NUTTING,
21 Collingham Road, SWS.

known as "Billy the Kid" he was then 21 years old, he had killed 21 men and he had avenged John Tunstall, whose great niece signs herself, Sir.

Your obedient servant,
JEAN WRANGHAM,
Rosemary House,
Catterick,
Yorkshire.

Overseas students' fees

From the Senior Pro-Rector of the University of Cambridge

Sir, I trust that the Department of Education and Science, when considering university fees for overseas students, will be mindful of the writ received in Cambridge from an earlier authority (Henry III, May 3, 1231):

"You are aware that a multitude of scholars from divers parts, as well from this side the sea as from overseas, come to our town of Cambridge for study, which we hold a very praiseworthy and desirable thing, since no small benefit and glory accrues therefrom to our whole realm; and you, among whom these students personally live, ought especially to be pleased and delighted at it."

We have heard, however, that in letting your houses you make

A wife's worth

From Sir Edward Lear

Sir, Many years ago a Penzance doctor told me that, some time before the first war, a very poor patient of his at Mousehole, shattered by the death of the wife with whom he had lived for over 50 years, said "I'd have given £5 to keep her alive". In every case, as in this, is not the sum the largest one one thinks of?

Yours faithfully,
E. W. LARFAIR,
12 The Vauxhall,
Chelsea, SW3.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Setback for
GKN's
grand design,
page 21

British Gas defends price policy for North Sea gas electricity challenge

Electricity Commission. Reductions for off-peak supplies could be much greater.

Electricity returned to the attack yesterday when Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board told the House of Commons Select Committee that gas prices should reflect the longer term costs of bringing in more expensive gas supplies from the fields in the northern part of the North Sea.

This was quickly followed by a Gas Corporation statement claiming that the average price of gas from offshore sources was considerably higher than 1.9 a therm. It added that costs would continue to increase as more gas from the Frigg field arrived over the next two years. The price of gas from the North Sea contracts would also rise as "escalation" clauses in the contracts are implemented.

Although the statement makes no mention of Frigg gas prices, estimates within British Gas show that when the northern field is contributing about 20 per cent of the country's gas supplies in 1979, the average landed price of gas will be just under 6p a therm. Transport to a power station would raise the gas price to around that of coal.

Disputing the Electricity Commission's figures on the cost of gas presents the Gas Corporation with the need to reassure its customers that they are not going to face a sudden large increase when the 12-month gas contracts end next April.

By 1979, it says, the full cost of the conversion programme will have been paid for out of revenue, it says. The cost of writing off obsolete gas plant will also have been met, and the improved financial state of the corporation will reduce the burden of interest payments.

It is planned that future rises in gas prices will be gradual so that when substitute natural gas is required to supplement supplies from the North Sea and elsewhere, the price of supplies from all sources will be about the same.

British Gas added to its statement: "It is indeed less expensive than electricity, but it is not cheap. Certainly our 14.2 million customers do not think so."

Auditors say Third World projects costing \$1,300m were ill-planned World Bank management under fire

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Feb 22

Audits of 70 projects in developing countries that involved World Bank credits in excess of \$1,300m (about £634m) show that in many cases poor supervision, inadequate planning and plain bad judgment, resulted in heavy cost overruns and lengthy project completion delays.

The audits raise questions about the bank's managerial competence, which is of critical importance today as the bank strives to expand its activities. Most of the projects reviewed have turned out well, but in many cases there were serious initial difficulties.

For the first time the World Bank has publicly released its Annual Review of Project Performance Audit Results, providing an insight into the bank's managerial skills. The audits were completed in 1976 and the report has been written by the operations evaluations department. Detailed criticisms in the report are aimed at improving the bank's operational expertise with current and future projects.

The authors of the report note that most of the projects reviewed have been implemented successfully and more than half with expenditures close to or less than approved estimates. They assert that "over 90 per cent of the investments clearly remain worth while, with expected economic returns similar to or substantially better than estimated at appraisal."

However, a detailed review of individual projects shows that a great number of them encountered serious problems. For example, out of 21 diverse agricultural projects, fully one-third failed to achieve their original objectives.

The report notes that four agricultural projects had overruns of about 30 per cent, six of them suffered completion delays averaging 50 per cent of the original estimate, and "in several cases, unsatisfactory supervision contributed to or overlooked the failure to implement project components or covenants established at the Bank's requirements."

Major shortcomings in supervision occurred in two cases.

A clear illustration of mismanagement is provided in the report when it is noted that in one agricultural credit project the consultants' misleading reporting and the Bank's reliance on these reports caused it to fail to notice major implementation problems.

"It was the government's controllers who first found that the executing agency's accounts were in disorder, its financial statements were incorrect, its reorganisations were not making progress, and the consultants' reports were not properly reflecting actual achievements."

Most of the dozen transport projects reviewed took much longer to complete than originally planned, with delays in 11 of these projects, ranging from three months to eight years.

The auditors declare bluntly that the three projects which suffered the longest delays were those with "inadequate preparation."

Two harbour projects are reviewed, with one having a 43 per cent cost overrun and the other a 51 per cent cost overrun. In both cases the auditors note that the quality of the original soil investigations did not provide an "adequate basis for realistic planning."

Further bold criticisms of management are to be found in the audit reports on public utility and education projects financed by the World Bank. All the projects reviewed were initiated in the late 1960s and in the early 1970s and no doubt the Bank's management skills have improved significantly since then.

However, some of the errors of the past are startling. On 19 public utility projects the average completion time overrun was 33 per cent, and the average cost overrun was 20 per cent. Cost overruns of around 70 per cent developed in three of these projects, and were primarily ascribed to "unexpected geological difficulties."

The auditors add that there were three utility projects where demand for services provided "was significantly underestimated," while there were several where serious overestimates of demand were made.

On one project the auditors conclude that the public utility had been brought into service five to six years too soon.

There can be little doubt that the great majority of the projects described in the report were worthwhile, and the auditors appear satisfied that the bulk of them will prove to be economically feasible and indeed produce a good rate of return. But it is clear that many were changed during implementation, took longer to complete and cost more than originally estimated.

The report concludes with the cautionary note that its comments do not aim to describe what is typical about the projects reviewed, but the need for continuing attention to improve the effectiveness of operations. It is to the bank's credit that it should publish a report which contains so many criticisms of its managerial skills.

Signs turn against Big Four in fleet cars market

Another bout of gloom will hit the British car industry today with the news that the country's "big four" producers face their "higest threat yet" from foreign manufacturers.

The latest warning—as if the United Kingdom industry were not aware of its own deficiencies and the strength of the importers—comes in the Automobile Association's magazine Drive, which says that British car makers are in danger of losing their traditional hold on the all-important fleet car market.

Quoting a report apparently submitted by Vauxhall to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, it says that in the year up to July 1976 overseas manufacturers had captured 14 per cent of sales to British companies operating fleets of 25 or more cars. This is estimated to represent more than 50,000 cars a year.

Drive admits it does not know how much things have continued to swing the importers' way since then. "The signs are, however, that the foreign share of this vital market is growing steadily."

But a relevant factor that must not be forgotten is that Ford is now the leading importer of cars to the United Kingdom and that all the "big four" bring in foreign assembled cars which are capturing a significant slice of the total new car market.

The magazine continues: "Clearly, there has been a mass defection among Britain's company car fleet managers, even though it's not so long since most of these men would have seen their salesmen, walking, rather than driving Toyotas and the like."

The reason for the switch in loyalty is said to be availability of cars which are more reliable, more comfortable and more spacious than the goods.

Drive adds a further warning: "The change to foreign cars is not merely a phase. Once a fleet manager defects, it becomes a habit. Foreign manufacturers win back his allegiance and custom."

Exact figures for the size of the fleet market are difficult to obtain. The magazine believes that the foreigners' main successes have been in the small fleets of less than 25 cars, although this is reckoned to be a sector accounting for 200,000 sales a year.

And the SMMT says there are indications that the overall percentage of imported models in the fleets may have doubled over the last four years.

Drive maintains that the reasons British makers cannot guarantee delivery are "the all too familiar disputes and inefficiency that ensure car shortages in a market that is booming, as more and more firms offer a wider range of employees the perk of a car to keep them happy in these days of pay restraint."

The magazine names companies like Rank Xerox, Visionaire, Kenning, Hertex and IBM which have been forced by late deliveries of United Kingdom cars to contemplate or actually buy foreign fleets of cars like Renault or Fiat.

But the quietest and most significant source of the importers, according to Drive, has been in the nation's driving schools.

A recent survey of the Motor Schools Association shows that the Japanese Datsun Sunny and Cherry models have replaced the Escort as the school's most popular choice. And it is stressed that most newly qualified drivers tend to buy as a first car the make on which they learned.

Edward Townsend

Ke move for return work next week

Shakespeare's old strike at "London's Triumph car" may end on Thursday as thousands of strikers plant at Speke are id to a meeting morning and they will vote on a proposal to work from Monday.

After discussions for Leyland manage floor representatives prior national union Mr Terry Duffy, officer of the AUEW, Greenville Hawley, automotive secretary of port and General Union, over the past more meetings progress to try to a final point in the hat will be put to age, which began on 1 has cost Leyland 100m worth of pro the TR7 sports car assembled on Mersey the Dolomite range, for which are made With the entire complex shut down 0 workers have been at Coventry and :duction has been troubles on Mersey.

Study of Miller company dealings threatens confirmation for Fed

Washington, Feb 22

Government investigations into a widening range of foreign business transactions by Textron Incorporated are threatening the prospects of the United States Senate confirming Mr William Miller, the Textron chairman, as Dr Arthur Burns's successor at the Federal Reserve Board.

Informal sources stated these questions are being raised by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the staff of the Senate Banking Committee about the extent of Mr Miller's knowledge of questionable foreign payments made in recent years by Textron.

The investigations have forced the Senate Banking Committee to further delay taking a final vote on Mr Miller's nomination. Senator William Proxmire, chairman of the committee, said it would recall Mr Miller next week for further questioning about a \$2.95m (£1.5m) commission to a sales agent made by Textron's Bell Helicopter division in connexion with a contract in Iran.

The sales agent in Iran was a company connected with air force General Mohammad Khomeini. The key outstanding question is whether Mr Miller knew that a possible bribe was being paid. He has stated that he did not.

Government investigators are looking at a range of other foreign transactions by Textron that might also have involved questionable payments.

No evidence has been made public that in any way associates Mr Miller with questionable business practices, but the committee does not believe it can take a final decision on his nomination until all investigations are complete. There are indications that the SEC may take several more weeks before it presents Senator Proxmire with a report.

Textron executives will testify before the committee on Monday, and Mr Miller is likely to make his appearance on Tuesday. There is a danger now that the delays over Mr Miller's confirmation may become so great that the committee will suggest to President Carter that he find another candidate.

There is still hope among several members of the committee that the affair can be resolved in the near future and that Mr Miller can be swiftly confirmed. But as Senator Edward Brooke, the leading Republican member of the committee, said today: "We would look ridiculous if we went ahead with confirmation without resolving this issue."

Nothing left for Bond Worth shareholders

By Ray Maughan

Shareholders and unsecured creditors are unlikely to receive any dividend from Bond Worth Holdings, the carpet manufacturer which went into receivership last August, four months after Equity Capital for Industry and other institutions had injected fresh finance.

Joint receivers and managers appointed by the main bank creditor, National Westminster, announced yesterday that on August 1st last year there was a total deficiency of £21.9m as regards creditors and £28m including shareholders.

Lacking sufficient information to make a reasonable estimate of realizable values at the time of preparing the statement, the directors have been unable to place a value on the investments in and debts due from subsidiary companies.

As the liabilities to the holders of the 74 per cent debenture stock, 1986-87, amounting to £16.09m, have been calculated without taking account of subsequent realizations, the estimated total deficiency should be materially less than stated.

Receivers for the debenture holders, Alliance Assurance, calculate that the deficit in respect of debenture holders should be reduced by at least £8m on the basis of estimated realizations on January 13.

Preferred creditors and debenture holders are likely to be repaid in full, but the receivers stressed that although certain assets such as the Rivington tufted carpet subsidiary have found buyers, no distribution has been made as the preferential claims have not been settled.

The outstanding tax liability is thought to be more than usually complicated.

Cadbury to pay £30m for American confectioners

By Bryan Appleyard

Cadbury, Schweppes, the sweets and soft drinks group, has agreed in principle to pay almost £30m for the United States confectionery company, Peter Paul.

The deal is subject to final approval from the two boards, the PP shareholders and British and American authorities.

Cadbury is paying \$27.50 (£14) for each PP share and is currently negotiating the financing arrangements. PP is incorporated in Delaware, with headquarters in Naugatuck, Connecticut. It has four plants spread across the country, and its products—including chocolate mounds, peppermint patties and caramels—are distributed nationally.

Its net sales for 1977 were about \$100m and net income after tax was \$4.6m including an extraordinary credit of \$1.3m. Earnings per share were \$2.19 or \$1.56 after the extraordinary credit.

In Cadbury's last half year figure 7.5 per cent of its sales came from North America and there was a trading loss of £200,000. In the last full year, the area accounted for 9 per cent of the total sales of £787m, and yielded trading profits of £200,000.

Cadbury expects the acquisition to give it 10 per cent share of the United States sugar confectionery market when combined with its Pennsylvania manufacturing operation.

Financial Editor, page 21

Findings of inquiry into BSC finances out today

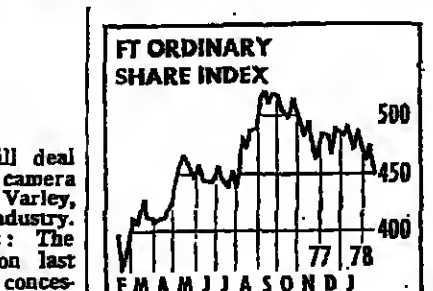
By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Results of detailed investigations into the finances of the British Steel Corporation will be published later today by the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries.

The committee, which in a previous report claimed that it had been misled by Sir Charles Villiers, the BSC chairman, on the corporation's financial position, reopened its investigation after disclosures that internal BSC forecasts indicated a much larger loss for this year at a time when the chairman had indicated a loss for the current year of up to £225m.

Some £20m for the year ending next month. The report being published today will deal with evidence given in camera by Sir Charles and Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. Paul Rottledge writes: The British Steel Corporation last night held out for big concessions on managing, early closures, and work discipline in return for improving their 9.5 per cent pay offer to 65,000 production workers.

In negotiations with the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation lasting more than six hours, BSC demanded union acceptance of an industrial peace memorandum that would precipitate early closure of many works involving thousands of jobs, breakdown in job demarcations, and fewer official strikes.



Shares lowest for six months

Gloomy economic predictions from the Prime Minister and disappointing profit figures from BOC International combined to push the FT ordinary share index below 450 for the first time since early August.

In another day of light trading, shares fell through lack of support, leaving the index 4.7 down at the close at 449.9. However with sellers awaiting a lead from today's ICI results, the leaders ended off the bottom.

Government securities recovered some of their points.

Financial Editor, page 21

Railway editor questioned over document

A senior officer of the British Transport Police yesterday called on Mr Richard Hope, editor of the Railway Gazette, to ask how a copy of a document, recording the essential points of a meeting between officials of the Department of Transport and British Rail on November 30, fell into his hands.

Mr Hope told him that he had not received a copy of the document, although it had been read to him over the telephone.

Last month Business News published an article by Mr Hope discussing in part, the attitudes of the Government and British Rail to the manning of Class 56 locomotives. Mr William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, in a letter to Business News, published on January 17, denied that he had written to Mr Peter Parker, British Rail chairman, instructing him how he should deal with the Class 56 dispute.

Central bankers stand by to aid franc

Geneva, Feb 22.—Western European nations are quietly preparing to come to the aid of the French Government should fears of a Leftist victory in the forthcoming national assembly elections lead to heavy outflows of capital and a run on the franc.

According to sources here, European central banks have indicated they are prepared to extend standby credits to France in case of need. This willingness was expressed at a meeting of central bankers in Basle last week at the Bank for International Settlements.

It is not clear whether the United States and Japan, both of which are represented at the meeting, are prepared to back central bankers, will join in the aid plan. Moreover, sources said, in view of the relative recent stability of the French currency after a bout of litters, the central bankers apparently have not decided on the terms of the proposed standby credit arrangements, pending a clear need for such facilities.

It is acknowledged here that the central bankers may be hoping that news of international backing for the French currency can serve as a deterrent to speculation, and tend to calm French fears that the franc is threatened by the possible outcome of the elections next month, thereby making any actual help unnecessary.

The sources were unable to say whether the credit lines would remain open after the elections should the Leftists win.—AP-Dow Jones.

AEJAN HOLDINGS LIMITED			
INTERIM STATEMENT			
Results for the Half Year Ended 30th September, 1977			
	6 months to 30.9.77	6 months to 30.9.76	£'000
Income and Charges Receivable	3,786	3,705	
Party Outgoings	1,989	1,989	
	1,797	2,716	
Trading Profit	1,132	1,727	
Net Sales Surplus	1,089	256	
Retainable	60	68	
	4,077	3,962	
Charges, Expenses and	3,044	3,272	
ation			
Profit before Taxation	1,033	690	
Interest	386	387	
	9	9	
	2,638	2,994	
Par Share	3.91p	1.80p	
A dividend of 1.155p per share (1976—1.1375p actual profit payment) will be paid on 4th April 1978 to shareholders registered on 3rd March 1978. It is expected that profits over the level achieved during the previous year.			

Barclaycard in Eurocheque pact

Barclaycard is in reman in the Eurocheque cheque guarantee system, so ending a dispute between the two organisations that has lasted almost a year.

But Barclays will not give up the principle of its card performing the twin functions of a credit card and a cheque guarantee card.

Last year Eurocheque issued Barclays with an ultimatum that the dual function of its card would have to be dropped. The original deadline of last October has been twice extended and the two groups are expected to make a statement next month.

How the markets moved

Rises		Falls		THE POUND	
Dartmouth Inv	21p to 19p	Bibby, J.	7p to 19p	Australia \$	1.76
Be Berr Dis	11p to 12p	Johns Road	11p to 12p	Austria Sch	30.00
Crossroads	4p to 7p	GRN	13p to 25p	Belgium Fr	64.25
Maynards	3p to 12p	Gt Portland	8p to 30p	Canada \$	2.22
Mannes, J.	5p to 31p	Royal	15p to 49p	Denmark Kr	11.25
		Johnson Mart	39p to 40p	Finland Mk	8.50
		Blackburn Welch	15p to 49p	France Fr	9.40
		Lydenberg Plat	5p to 59p	Germany Dm	4.14
		Manch Garages	21p to 24p	Greece Dr	73.50
		Myson Group	4p to 61p	Hong Kong \$	9.25
				Italy L	1,715.00
				Japan Yn	485.00
				Netherlands Gld	4.44
				Norway Kr	10.65
				Portugal Esc	78.50
				S Africa Rd	1.31
				Spain Pes	163.25
				Sweden Kr	9.25
				Switzerland Fr	3.72
				US \$	2.00
				Yugoslavia Dnr	38.75

On other pages		Annual Statements		THE POUND	
Business appointments	23	Blair Payne	22	Australia \$	1.76
Appointments vacant	25, 29	Croizier	24	Austria Sch	30.00
Wall Street	24	Financial Announcements	20	Belgium Fr	64.25
Bank Base Rates Table	24	Office Brokers	20	Canada \$	2.22
		Interim Statements	20	Denmark Kr	11.25
				Finland Mk	8.50
				France Fr	9.40
				Germany Dm	4.14
				Greece Dr	73.50
				Hong Kong \$	9.25
				Italy L	1,715.00
				Japan Yn	485.00
				Netherlands Gld	4.44
				Norway Kr	10.65
				Portugal Esc	78.50
				S Africa Rd	1.31
				Spain Pes	163.25
				Sweden Kr	9.25
				Switzerland Fr	3.72
				US \$	2.00
				Yugoslavia Dnr	38.75

Moving?

GMC

offers a helping hand

with information on property and land availability, with help in claiming government grants and other assistance, with advice on various regulations, planning matters, sources of funds and many other problems.

Have a talk with: The Industrial Development Group, Greater Manchester Council, County Hall, Manchester M60 2HP, Telephone 061-247 3371

Dewhurst buys 20 deep freeze outlets

By Our Commercial Staff
Dewhurst, one of the country's largest butchery multiples, with 1,500 outlets, yesterday announced the acquisition of 20 Freezer Fare centres in the Home Counties.

The deal, completed for an undisclosed sum, is part of a planned diversification by Dewhurst into frozen food retailing. Its acquisition will take the total number of centres operated by Dewhurst to 77. There are, in addition, four more outlets in the process of being fitted out, ready for opening in the next few months.

Commenting on the purchase, Mr Colin Cullimore, managing director of Dewhurst, said that while his original target of 150 stores by the end of 1978 now looked unlikely, he could still foresee a chain of 400 freezer centres as the eventual target within the next ten years.

The centres will in future be operated under the "Dew-Freeze" name. According to Mr Cullimore this will allow the division to develop under its own management team independently from the butchery chain.

"The last few months have not been easy for the freezer business," he said. "The summer weather has had an effect on sales of ice cream, drinks and light convenience freezer food packs, and was followed by an abundance of home grown vegetables. Recently the fierce supermarket war has eroded margins for grocery items."

"The future must lie in strength, as the small operator will find it difficult to buy competitively and keep down prices to the consumer."

Recent surveys into freezer sales suggest that the upsurge experienced during the last few years will continue. Latest estimates are that by the end of this year about 46 per cent of households could own a deep freeze or combination fridge-freezer.

Freezer-owning households tend to buy more meat than the average. The research figures show that between 1974 and 1976 households with freezers increased their total consumption of meat by approximately 14 per cent whereas those with a refrigerator but no freezer consumed 1 per cent less meat over the same period.

Whisky distillers seek tax equality

By Patricia Tisdall

A case for the Treasury to tax spirits at the same rate as beer and other alcoholic drinks was presented by the Scotch Whisky Association yesterday.

The industry maintains that the cumulative effects of three successive duty increases in 21 months have contributed to a slump in United Kingdom sales of whisky in 1977. This in turn has for the first time more than cancelled out government gains from higher tax.

Mr Adam Bergius, chairman of the information and development committee of the Association, and chairman of the Scotch Whisky Association, said yesterday that fiscal revenue from whisky during 1977-78 was likely to be over £28m less than in the previous year, when the rate of duty was 10 per cent lower.

Releases of whisky from bond for sale in the home market in the first 11 months of last year amounted to 13.4 million proof gallons, this was 17 per cent less than the figure for the same period of 1976.

The size of the collective downturn in sales has surprised the industry. Each distillery was individually aware of loss of trade in the home market, but this had been attributed to stockpiling by distributors in anticipation of tax increases. It is the first year-on-year drop in sales registered by the association since at least 1969, and probably the biggest ever experienced.

The effects have also been disguised by gains in export sales, which account for over 80 per cent of the total and rose by about 2 per cent by volume during last year.

Mr Healey is understood to have expected to raise £15m more in revenue from whisky during the current financial year as a result of the 10 per



Mr Bergius at the whisky association's London headquarters yesterday.

cent rise in excise duty imposed since January.

But the slump in sales, according to the association, will result instead in the Treasury receiving only £292m compared with £320m for 1976-77. On top of this there is the loss from potential VAT income.

Whisky producers, who would like to see all types of drink taxed at the same rate depending on the amount of alcohol, complain that the present structure discriminates against whisky and other spirits. Whereas a half pint of beer carries a tax rate of 3.7p, a 100 glass of whisky carries 11.52p worth of tax. But each drink contains about the same amount of alcohol.

Distillers say that with an equitable duty structure at home, "the British Government would be in a much stronger position to demand the end of discrimination against Scotch whisky which exists in some EEC countries".

Last year both France and Denmark increased the protection given to their domestic alcoholic drinks producers. As a result of discriminatory taxation in Europe, sales to Italy, once Britain's third largest export market, are 15 per cent below their 1974 level. Exports to Denmark are 30 per cent higher than they were in 1972.

North Sea oil output at fresh peak despite gales during January

By Roger Vielvoys

Oil output from the British sector of the North Sea reached a new peak of 884,823 barrels a day in January, according to figures issued yesterday by the Department of Energy. Domestic production represented over half the country's oil requirements.

It exceeded the 851,102 barrels-a-day average in the previous month and was achieved during a period when gales in the northern North Sea made operating conditions extremely difficult, particularly for fields loading oil directly into tankers.

Production is expected to build up slowly throughout the rest of the winter and spring, and the million-barrel-a-day average should be reached around midsummer. There will be no substantial increase until the Ninian pipeline to Sabetank comes into service in the autumn and oil from the Ninian and Heather fields comes ashore.

British Petroleum said yesterday it had completed the first development well on the Buchan field, producing 7,100 barrels a day.

BP, developing the field on behalf of a number of small companies, has received tenders for the floating production platform. So far, however, it has not received Department of Energy approval for its development plans.

Ranger Oil, the operator for a group of companies that has found oil on block 23/27, close to the Norwegian median line, east of the Montrose field, said yesterday it was about to drill another well on the block.

BP confirmed yesterday it would close its 24 million-ton-a-year capacity refinery in Rotterdam during April and May because of the depressed state of the European oil market. The company claims it will be cheaper to replace Rotterdam output with products bought on the open market.

Shipbuilding intervention fund to get £75m more

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Ministers are preparing to introduce a further shipbuilding intervention fund to enable British shipbuilders to compete with non-European shipyards for orders.

The fund is expected to amount to about £75m for the new financial year compared to the £65m which was made available last year.

Up to £28m from the present fund is expected to be used to subsidise yards which fall under the control of British Shipbuilders in order to narrow the gap between United Kingdom prices and those of overseas competitors.

It is used to provide a direct subsidy to yards which fall under the control of British Shipbuilders in order to narrow the gap between United Kingdom prices and those of overseas competitors.

The fund was introduced last year and gained grudging approval from the European Commission. The Commission is itself attempting to secure national aid schemes for shipbuilding related cutbacks in capacity and consequential redundancies in the industry, which Britain is contesting.

Discussions with the Commission have still to be completed against the background of continuing uncertainty over the final shape of the restructuring proposals advanced by Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC Industry Commissioner. An ad hoc working group of government officials from member states is considering the recommendations.

Sources in Brussels believe that the British subsidy plan will be approved, particularly since a number of other shipbuilding states in the EEC are now framing their own schemes to aid shipyards.

Further use of development aid to the Third World is expected to be deployed by the British Government in the course of this year.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taxation: Meade's conflict with commonsense

From Mr B. J. Davies

Sir, May I express certain doubts regarding the wisdom or practicability of the recent Meade committee proposal for the abolition of income tax. The idea is apparently that income tax together with Value Added Tax and Capital Gains Tax should be replaced by an entirely novel graduated expenditure tax which would be levied only on the amount we spend on consumer goods and services, over and beyond a basic threshold. The rest of our income would escape tax, at least for so long as it remained saved or invested.

In the first place this would seem to require an expenditure tax of quite unacceptable severity to make good the fall on revenue due to tax-exempt savings. Next, the alleged inducement to save is a fraud and a delusion, for the proposed "relief" on savings and investment is nothing more than a postponement of liability.

The moment we disinvest and spend the proceeds on our own enjoyment, this erstwhile tax-free saving becomes subject to tax. If this indeed deters us from such profligacy and we keep all our savings intact until death, meanwhile feeling rather like the lone castaway with a trunk containing a million dollars, those savings will be tax-free no longer. Indeed the whole scheme is recommended to be particularly severe with our estate since inherited wealth is something to be discouraged. For that matter he may not wait that long before demanding an interim contribution in the form of a wealth tax, should our savings have built up beyond a certain level. Is this nothing more than a confidence trick or is it possible that the authors of the proposal have deceived themselves?

Even more serious, the scheme implies an underlying theory which appears to fly into the face of commonsense. It is obviously desirable within limits for a community to invest and expand its productive capacity, but only if there is provision and encouragement for a corresponding increase in consumer spending, so that supply and demand remain in healthy balance.

In contrast, the proposed change with its emphasis on saving and its discouragement of consumer spending would quickly lead to under-consumption, reduced production, less investment, worsened unemployment and senseless impoverishment. In this logical sequence we see both the cause and the consequences of the trade cycle as described by Keynes and others before him, and that a respected group of economists should now wish it on us is quite astonishing.

Not for the first time I am left wondering whether the dreaming spires are somehow conducive to nightmares and economic hallucinations, but then is "the other place" any better? Certainly, it all leaves me very frightened, not from fear that this particular proposal would ever be adopted but because it reflects the quality of such academic thinking. No wonder the future of all mankind seems to be in the balance.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. DAVIES,
16 Hill Road,
Swanage,
Dorset, BH9 1RH.
February 14.

From Mr David G. Lindsay
Sir, The three objections put forward by Meade to the Unrestricted Quotient System for taxing the income of husband and wife (under which the tax payable is twice the amount which would be payable on half

the joint income) do not hold water. First, Meade complains that the system would give a personal allowance to each partner to a marriage. Why not? Each partner is a person, surely? Then we are told that the system makes no allowance for the fact that, by sharing household expenses, a married couple can "probably" live more cheaply than two single adults. What has that to do with it?

Sharing of house and other expenses is only one of many ways of living less expensively. It is not the purpose of a tax system to penalise those who make more economic use of resources.

Finally, it is said that the system can "seriously hurt the incentive for married women to seek paid work". But why should a tax system provide any more (or less) incentive for a wife to take on paid work than it does for a husband to change to more remunerative work, or vice versa?

Surely it should be freely left to the parties to decide the extent to which each will take on paid work and/or the job of running the home and caring for the children.

It is no business of the state to attempt to influence who does what in this respect; its system should be wholly neutral, merely levying the same total tax on the same total family income, no matter who contributes what to it.

The simple fact is, although I saw no mention of it in Meade, that Germany both enjoys the unrestricted quotient system, and I am unaware of any complaints about its operation in those countries.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID G. LINDSAY,
3 Swanton Field,
Whitchurch-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.
February 16.

Customer rules—OK?

From the Chairman of The Marketing Society

Sir, The most perceptive aspect of the planned regeneration of Leyland is the switch from the manufacturing to the marketing approach of their new management. Improved products, competitive prices and the single-minded rebuilding of brand reputations will do far more to stop potential customers walking past Leyland showrooms than having growth upon higher production targets under a new corporate umbrella.

An improved, rather than a new, Leyland employees in the long-term far more than the protection of jobs.

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Decrease in complaints about hotels

From Mrs Margaret Hook, the President of the Association of British Travel Agents

Sir, The press statement issued by the Office of Fair Trading in connection with their report on package holidays (February 15) gives an unbalanced picture. The statement is based on figures supplied by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA).

The figures show that there was a fall of 42 per cent in the total number of complaints made to ABTA between April and October last year compared with the same months in 1975.

During the same period complaints about hotel arrangements and facilities have more than halved and a rising trend of complaints specifically about accommodation was reversed last year to show an 18 per cent decrease compared with 1975.

There is therefore no justification for assuming that complaints about hotels in general or accommodation in particular are increasing. The facts prove otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET HOOK,
President,
Association of British Travel Agents,
55-57 Newman Street,
London, W1P 4AL.
February 15.

Nuclear operators' liability

From Mr F. W. Longworth

Sir, Mr Derbyshire (Letters, February 9) suggested that the most worrying aspect of nuclear power is the legal limit on the liability of operators for damages. He has it the wrong way round. Under the provisions of the 1965 Nuclear Installations Act (not the 1959 Act he cites, which has been long repealed) there is an upper limit on the cover provided for the possibility of damage caused by a nuclear installation.

Mr Derbyshire may have been confused by the fact that above

the £5m level, for which the operator must have insurance or similar cover, the liability is taken over from the commercial market by the Government. This is, of course, in itself an exceptional arrangement, but there are good insurance reasons for it and it matches the exceptional arrangement that the liability for damages in such a case is an absolute one, in no way dependent on proof of negligence or blame.

Yours faithfully,
F. W. LONGWORTH,
12 Kibergon Gardens,
Liverpool, L17 6BG.

Gillett Brothers Discount Company Limited

Preliminary Results

The directors of Gillett Brothers Discount Co. Ltd. announce the results (subject to audit) for the year ended 31st January, 1978.

	1978	1977
Group profit for the year after tax and transfer to contingencies	1,013,655	469,245
Dividends paid and proposed	375,235	272,113
Balance brought forward	638,420	197,132
	440,505	493,373
Transfer to general reserve	250,000	250,000
Additional reduction in goodwill	346,469	—
	596,469	250,000
Balance carried forward	£482,456	£440,505

The directors propose a final dividend of 8.58% (13% gross) on the ordinary share capital, which was increased during the year by a 1 for 3 rights issue. An interim dividend of 6.6% (10% gross) was paid last August on the ordinary share capital excluding the rights issue. Dividends paid in the previous year were 13% (20% gross).

The following are the main items shown by the balance sheet.

Total capital and published reserves	4,893,235	3,578,703
Bills discounted	191,448,969	140,045,948
Sterling and dollar certificates of deposit and currency instruments	18,708,682	8,078,047
Listed investments	29,689,126	21,397,317
Goodwill less amount written off	600,000	1,110,878
Contingent liability on commercial bills rediscounted	42,096,000	32,868,000

BOC

BOC International Ltd Group profit, unaudited, for the three months to 31 December 1977 was:—

	Three months to 31.12.77	Three months to 31.12.76	Year to 30.9.77
	£ million	£ million	£ million
Group Sales	155.5	159.2	670.6
Operating costs	135.3	134.3	556.1
Depreciation	20.2	24.9	114.5
	10.3	8.8	35.7
	9.9	18.3	78.8
Group share of associated companies' profits, less losses	4.8	5.3	23.0
Group trading profit	14.7	21.6	101.8
Europe	1.6	7.5	39.5
Africa	3.7	3.5	16.7
Americas	4.0	4.7	19.9
Asia	0.9	1.2	4.9
Pacific	4.5	4.7	20.8
Interest	14.7	21.6	101.8
	3.9	5.0	19.6
Group profit before tax	10.8	16.8	82.2
Tax	6.1	8.3	35.1
Minorities	4.7	8.3	47.1
	1.6	1.7	7.7
Available for disposal	3.1	6.8	39.4
Earnings per share	0.95p	2.55p	14.49p

1) Profits in Europe were seriously affected by a four week strike in the UK Gas Division. The cost of the strike in the quarter is estimated at £3 million.

The European results were also affected by a significant decline in the profits of the Chemicals, Metals and Metallurgical businesses.

2) Trading profit for the three months to 31 December 1977 has been reduced by extra depreciation of £1.3 million provided in anticipation of further asset revaluations to be carried out by the end of the current financial year.

3) Sterling strengthened against other major currencies during the three months to 31 December 1977. Group profit for the quarter would have been higher by £0.8 million if exchange rates ruling at 30 September 1977 had still applied.

4) The results for the quarter do not take into account the 1.8 million shares in Airco Inc. acquired as a result of the tender offer made on 3 January 1978.

5) Deferred taxation has been calculated in accordance with the proposed accounting standard ED19. On this basis the tax charged for the three months to 31 December 1978 would have been £7.0 million.

Further copies of this report may be obtained from the Secretary, BOC International Ltd, Hammersmith House, London, W6 3DX, Tel. 01-748 2020.

Pay restraint 'narrowing fringe benefit differences'

By Rodney Cowton

In the last five years considerable reductions have been made in differences between staff and manual workers over fringe benefits. During the same period four weeks has become established as the norm for annual holidays.

These points are revealed in a survey of company practice on employee benefits, published yesterday by the British Institute of Management. The survey is based on a postal questionnaire sent to 400 companies. Employee benefits are defined as "items over and above basic remuneration which increase the wellbeing or wealth of employees at some cost to the employer".

Not surprisingly it found that over the last two years the most important single influence on the development of benefits policy has been the Government incomes policy.

"Now that incomes policy is restricted to observance of the 12-month rule and a general requirement not to increase overall wage and salary bills by

more than 10 per cent, reports of current claims indicate that benefits figure just as prominently at the bargaining table as pay, both at shop floor and non-shop floor levels."

The survey found that since 1973, when the BIM last surveyed this field, 55 per cent of companies have improved pension provisions, 23 per cent holiday entitlements.

The report says: "It is clear that there has been a considerable reduction in differences between staff and manual employees as part of many companies' policy to reduce status divisions in employment conditions, but this process is by no means complete or accepted as inevitable."

In some cases, "45 per cent of companies plan to change benefits policy when national incomes policy allows. In addition, 51 per cent of the companies that had already made changes between 1973 and 1977 plan further change."

Comments by Helen Morris, the British Institute of Management (£10 to BIM members, £20 to others).

New Hawk jet ends foreign sales mission

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

British Aerospace is hoping for further orders for the new Hawk jet from a successful tour of the Middle East lasting 30 days by the demonstration aircraft.

In addition to 175 being delivered to the Royal Air Force, British Aerospace has 50 Hawks worth £128m to Finland, and is about to conclude contracts with a country in East Africa and another in the Far East.

The demonstrator aircraft, which has the civil registration G-HAWK, returned to its parent airfield at Dunsfold, Surrey, after visiting eight countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Muscat and Oman, Kuwait and Jordan.

Many of these have ageing military inventories, which they will have to consider replacing soon.

During the tour, G-HAWK covered 20,000 miles, made 78 flights, was in the air for 674 hours.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

	NIESR (Nov)	Year 1978/Year 1977 LBS H OS (Dec) (Feb) (Feb) [% change between years unless otherwise stated]				P & L (Feb)	1st half 1978/1st half 1977 Treasury NIESR (Nov) [% change between years unless otherwise stated]	
Consumer spending	4.9	3.7	5.2	4.8	5.3		3.5	5.0
Private investment inc. housebuilding	7.8	11.3	7.8	9.8	3.3		8.0	6.7
Public investment inc. housebuilding	0.4	-4.0	4.8	1.2	0.4		-3.0	-2.1
Public authorities consumption	0.6	0.7	1.1	2.2	1.6		0.5	1.0
Exports	5.5	4.3	5.8	5.3	3.9		7.5	7.8
Imports	7.8	6	5.5	7.4	7.6		5.0	5.5
Stockbuilding (£2m) year 1978	118	206	370	327	258		300	42
Gross domestic product after adjustment to factor cost	3.4	2.2	3.1	3.5	2.5		2.5	3.5
Inflation forecast	8.4	1.3	9.9	9.8	9.0		8.5*	8.0
Balance of payments current account deficit (—) Yr 1978 (£2m)	2100	1370	1000	1999	1100		—**	2414
PSBR (£2m—fiscal 1978-79)	8800	8720	8000	8050	7500		7000†	—
Money supply († M3—fiscal 1978-79)	19	14.3	13.7	10-12	13.0		9-13††	—

Depression in the market

CHALLENGE CORPORATION LIMITED INTERIM REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

The unaudited results of the Group for the six months ended 31st December, 1977, and the comparable figures for the same period of the previous year, are as follows:

	Six months ended 31.12.77	Six months ended 31.12.76
Group Profit before taxation	3,421	9,038
Estimated taxation on Group Profit	1,522	3,864
Less adjustment due to revaluation of trading stock	741	781
	2,640	5,174
Less Minority interests in subsidiary companies	7	15
	2,633	5,159
Group share of profits of associate companies (after tax)	544	820
Group Profit after taxation	3,177	5,979
Profits of surplus assets	243	1,121
	3,420	7,100

Although Group turnover fell from £236.7m to £235.7m gross earnings increased by 10 per cent. This was not, however, sufficient to cover increased costs, mainly interest charges which rose by £23.7m and staff and other costs which were £25.4m higher in spite of a decline in the numbers employed.

The rural sector suffered from a late and disappointing season in many districts. Additionally, the results of Whirlpool NMA, which is by far the largest supplier of seasonal finance to farmers in New Zealand, have been adversely affected by its inability to recover fully the current high costs of its borrowing in order to provide loan finance. The position has been aggravated by the heavy demand for finance brought about by inflation of the farmers' costs and consequent decline in their profits. As a result of legislation enacted in December, 1977, an improved recovery of the costs of borrowing will be permitted in the second half of the year. Whirlpool NMA will also benefit from an increase in wool and livestock charges granted by the Commerce Commission which came into effect in January.

The results from the manufacturing and trading subsidiaries showed a sharp decline reflecting the difficult economic conditions and the serious inflation of costs. In the finance sector all companies increased their net earnings. It is expected in the second half of the year that the rural subsidiaries will pick up part of their profit decline and that the performance of the finance subsidiaries will be sustained. However, with present inflation levels it is impossible to be optimistic about any improvement in the trading and manufacturing operation. Profits for the full year will be substantially down but proportionately the fall should not be as great as in the first half.

Interim Dividend

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent (5 cents per share) payable on 22nd March, 1978, to shareholders registered on 28th February, 1978. This dividend which is at the same rate as last year will be paid from realised capital profits.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

The lowest level for almost six months

Though well above the worst as late bargains were hunted the FT Index dipped below 450.0 for the first time in almost seven months to close 4.7 off at 449.9.

Selling pressure was rather less than on Tuesday but nervousness persisted as BOC came out with figures well below the market's downgraded estimates and dealers continued to view with some repugnance today's figures from ICI.

Those who viewed last week's economic pointers with some alarm felt that their opinion had been vindicated by the Prime Minister's apparent caution and the prospect of an early General Election which this raises. In its present state the market would not welcome an early poll and its attendant uncertainties and there is now a growing opinion that the charts could well prove to be right in their recent forecasts of the index at 420.0 or even lower.

By contrast, gilt had a firmer day overall. With sentiment better than it has been throughout the week, longs moved ahead slightly throughout the session in close at the top with gains of around an eighth to a quarter of a point. At the shorter end, after easing slightly in the mornings, most stocks recovered in afternoon to finish an eighth to a quarter up.

Unconfirmed reports that a private shipping group is seeking Government assistance against cast ripples through the shipping sector. P & O did slip below par value to close 2p off at 99p. There is still stock around and some dealers anticipate the shares remaining depressed until the annual figures are known in May.

Furness, Withy continued to fall losing a further 4p to 273p yesterday and giving a total drop on the week so far of 21p. With bid speculation currently on the wane and the yield around half of the other two main shipping groups, Furness shares can find few buyers. Although the dividend is covered around six times and the directors promise an increase if Government restrictions are lifted, this scheme may be shelved in case the lower share price precipitates the long-expected take-over moves.

Pegler-Hattersley shares have fallen from 176p to 160p since the interim bulletin last December. Values are still thought to be a touch out and there has been loss of output at the Ormskirk factory. For the full year to March 31 it is feared that profits fell by at least 20 per cent and with nothing to go for the shares could remain under pressure.

European Ferries, which has a 5 per cent stake in Furness, lost 3p to 103p while Ocean Transport drifted a penny up to 125p. British & Commonwealth managed to hold steady at 255p while London & Overseas went against the trend to close 2p higher at 33p.

A "reasonable" selling order in Hickson & Welch was enough to cut 15p off the shares at 495p and take figures down 5p to 350p in sympathy. Elsewhere in the chemicals sector J. Dykes eased a penny to 25p while Laporte closed unchanged at 95p. After its disappointing quarterly, which produced profits about £2m below expectations,

BOC were marked down 2p to 63p even though the disappointment was partially discounted by the previous day's annual report.

But an even bigger drag on sentiment was the German court decision barring GKN from taking a controlling interest in motor components group Sachs. GKN's shares dipped 13p to 265p after touching a low point of 260p.

ICI was again comparatively active, losing another 3p to 339p while Turner & Newall lost 3p to 203p ahead of figures next week which are expected to show a good growth in profits.

Over in stores John Menzies continued to provide an outstanding feature rising another 3p to 312p after its scrip issue and bullish forecast. Over the past two days the counter has risen no less than 22p. After experiencing some early pressure Gus 'A' rallied to close

just 2p off at 268p. Boots ended 4p lower to 192p while Grattan continued to be depressed by adverse comment on mail orders losing another 2p to 115p.

Snay 'A' at 71p has been attracting the speculators again this week. Arab interests and Trafalgar House, which cut its stake, are now both thoroughly discounted as potential suitors, but new names are emerging. The latest is Holiday Inns, of America, but some remain convinced that Trust Houses Forte will make a move. Buying has been light but persistent.

In the mining sector the decision by Impala not to seek platinum price increased clipped back related issues from their recent strength. Lydenburg lost 5p to 59p and Rustenburg 4p to 88p while in diamonds De Beers gained 10p

to 324p in front of figures. Ahead of figures next week, and with a court case pending in America, EMI lost 3p to 167p. GEC at 250p and Thoro Electric at 350p also lost ground while Decca, down 5p to 400p, has prompted a "buy" on weakness recommendation from brokers Quilter, Hilton, Goodison.

Disappointment that Comet only extended its offer for Henry Wigfall and did not tempt shareholders with increased terms lopped a further 12p off the Wigfall price now down to 212p as market sentiment supports the view that the offer will not be raised. Comet itself eased 1p to 111p.

A seller of Campari shares, who has been in the market for a couple of days, trimmed 7p from the price at 100p yesterday as the order prompted a nervous selling in a thin market.

The Scotch Whisky Association's plea to the Government not to increase the levels of tax coupled to news that overall sales are down, left the sector weak. Arthur Bell at 204p, Invergordon at 89p, Highland at 138p and Tomatin at 96p all lost a few pence while Distillers at 167p was unchanged.

After Rockware's slump the previous day on news of the high cost of imports the shares were steadier closing just 2p down to 108p. But there was a belated sympathetic drop from Redfearn National which slipped 5p to 285p.

A firm feature in foods was Maynards which gained 3p to 125p, but toy group Dundee Comber were little affected at 140p by news of a US acquisition.

In oils a better than expected flow rate from the Buchan Field raised Gas & Oil Acreage 5p to 105p and Charterhall 1p to 23p. But December production figures for the North Sea did little for the rest of the sector.

A meeting yesterday between Grand Metropolitan Hotels and fund managers and brokers left City men quietly confident about the group. Profits estimates for the year to September 1978 range from £105m to £110m against £78m last time. Despite these, the shares lost 2p to 93p.

Equity turnover on February 21 was £52.13m (11,349 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Shell, Grand Metropolitan, ICI, Rank, BAT, Dtd, Boots, GKN, Dermot Investments, European Ferries, GEC, BP, Henry Wigfall, J. Bibby and BOC International.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Int. & Fin.	—	—	2.32(2.75)	15(—)	4/4	(2.6)
Apex Properties (I)	—	0.18(0.20)	—	—	—	—
Bellambi Coal (I)	—	5.1a(3.13a)	—	—	—	—
Bland Payne (F)	—	21.9(12.2)	—	—	—	—
BOC Int. (Q)	135.5(139.2)	10.8(16.6)	0.95(2.55)	—	—	—
Carrington Int. (I)	—	0.03(0.02)	—	—	—	—
Carrington Vyla (F)	304.3(278.1)	16.5(10.8)	8.1(6.38)	1.50(1.34)	—	2.10(1.88)
Daejan Hides (I)	—	1.03(0.69)	3.91(1.80)	1.15(1.13)	4/4	(2.9)
Europa Bank (F)	—	1.81(3.16)	—	—	—	—
Gillett Bros (F)	—	1.01b(0.46b)	—	8.58(8.12)	—	75.18(13.0)
Gus 'A' (I)	—	3.18b(0.126b)	—	6(NH)	28/4	(8.2)
ICI (F)	—	0.26(0.22)	12.61(11.45)	—	—	—
John Menzies (I)	315.6(273.3)	13.3(14.0)	—	—	—	—
Law Debenture (F)	—	1.36(1.14)	4.78(4.54)	3.0(3.0)	—	4.5(4.0)
Laporte (F)	—	7.78a(16.5a)	0.94(1.93)	—	—	—
Home Bros (F)	15.76b(8.4)	1.0(0.31)	—	—	—	—
Lun Pavilion (F)	0.05(0.02)	0.003(0.01)	5.81(8.56)	12.5(12.5)	24/5	12.5(12.5)
Moorehead Int. (F)	—	0.97(0.84)	4.84(4.15)	3.5(3.0)	29/3	4.75(4.0)
Platinum Hides (F)	34.5(27.1)	4.1(3.5)	6.1(4.6)	—	—	(1.9)
Radley Fashion (I)	2.45(2.23)	0.15(0.12)	5.18(6.34)	1.49(1.31)	5/4	(3.6)
Westminster City (I)	0.87(1.41)	0.05(0.06d)	2.10(0.7)	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Dollars & Cents. b Net profits. c For 84 weeks. d Loss.

Roan Consolidated seeks joint action on copper

By Our Financial Staff
Roan Consolidated Mines, one of Zambia's two major copper producers, is still running at a loss and is calling for joint action among copper producers to bolster the commodity's depressed price on world markets.

Roan, which is 51 per cent owned by the Zambian Government and a further 20 per cent by Amstar, has announced a second quarter net loss of kwacha 630m and is not declaring a dividend. RCM has not declared a dividend for three years, following the slump in world copper prices. In spite of the efforts to cut costs, the group continues to

operate at a loss as copper prices are inadequate to cover costs. Finished copper production in the second quarter was 63,000 tonnes compared with 62,000 in the previous quarter. But rail transport difficulties sharply reduced sales to 52,000 tonnes as against 65,000 tonnes in the previous quarter. As the excess world stocks causing market weakness continue to increase there is little prospect of an early improvement unless positive concerted steps are taken by producers. In London earlier this month on a possible 15 per cent production cutback

McLeod-Sipef ready to raise bid for Sumatra

By Our Financial Staff
McLeod-Sipef Plantations has told London Sumatra that it is prepared to raise its 130p a share takeover offer if information is forthcoming to substantiate the claim that the company is worth more than £17.5m—the value of the bid.

In a letter to Robert Fleming, financial advisers to London Sumatra, Rothschilds and Noble Grossart, acting for McLeod-Sipef, say the company is prepared to raise its offer on these grounds subject to the recommendation of its financial advisers and the board. The bid is the third round

of a duel between Harrisons & Crosfield, which with associates has a near-43 per cent stake in London Sumatra, and Rothschild Investment Trust and McLeod Russell. McLeod Russell and Sipef, a Belgian plantation company, each have 45 per cent of McLeod-Sipef, with RIT holding the remaining 10 per cent.

Since the bid was made, the market price of London Sumatra has been consistently above the offer price—last night it was 113p—reflecting the view that McLeod-Sipef would be forced to offer a higher price and that Harrisons & Crosfield would eventually enter the lists.

Cons Gold back to dividends as shake-up shows benefits

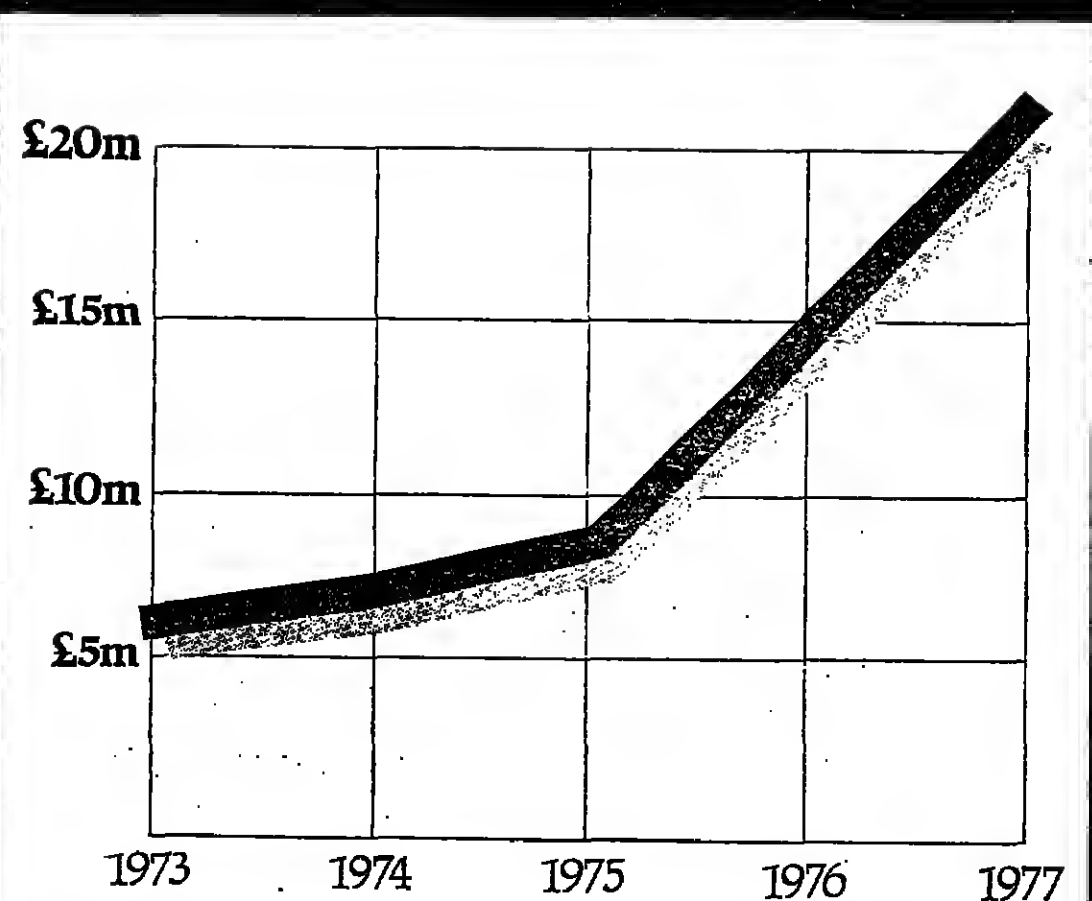
By Desmond Quigley
Consolidated Gold Fields of Australia has returned to the interim dividend lists after an absence of two years with a six-cent share declaration after a profit turnaround.

The directors stated yesterday that they expected similar profits in the second-half which would give a net profit in excess of \$6m compared with an attributable loss, including extraordinary items, of \$4.24m last year. CGFA said its listed coal and tin units made considerably

higher profits in the half-year although the mineral sands side made a loss. Bellambi Coal in fact made a net profit of \$2.99m compared with \$1.72m, an increase of 74 per cent, and declared a dividend of 17.5 cents a share compared with the equivalent of 15 cents.

Meanwhile, Lomax, the Canadian copper and molybdenum producer in which Rio Tinto-Zinc has an effective 34 per cent interest, has reported a halving in net profits for the year to end December to \$C7.78m as a result of the lower copper price, lower copper output and rising prices.

Bland Payne make £21,900,000 profit



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FINANCIAL NEWS

Nickel
prices

Loss

of France, the largest nickel producer in the world, has suffered a big loss last year. The group owned by Societe Metal et Minerale de la Penne (SNMP), which has not been quoted in the market, is said to be "sizeable".

SNMP's 1977 loss was estimated at 31m francs (about £4.8m) compared with 1976's loss of 18.1m francs. Last year's loss was due to a fall in nickel prices and a drop in production. The group's 1977 loss was due to a fall in nickel prices and a drop in production.

Daejan up 50 pc in first half

an increase of 50 per cent in the first half of 1977, Daejan Holdings, a property and investment company, expects a further increase for the full 12 months.

Between five and ten per cent have been declared by Britannic Assurance, Imperial Group and Wesleyan & General Assurance.

South African gold production will almost certainly decline in the 1980's and by the mid-1990's will probably be down to half the present level, while uranium production will expand rapidly, General Mining & Finance Corp's minerals development manager, Mr. Denis Maxwell, says.

Gold production in 1977 totalled 696,968 kilos, against 709,113 in 1976. It is unlikely that this fall in gold production will be replaced by production in other parts of the world, which will make it necessary to turn to above-ground stocks.—Reuters.

New purchase at Manson Finance
Manson Finance Trust has acquired London & European Trust, a banking company, for £878,000 cash. This is being funded from Manson's own resources.

The acquisition was based on the company's net assets at February 8, which comprised almost entirely of cash, plus £25,000 goodwill. The unaudited accounts indicate that London & European Trust made a loss of about £20,000 for 1977. The acquisition is part of Manson's expansion plans and will add further strength to its banking activities.

Allied Breweries' £15m Eurobond
Allied Breweries' offshoot, Financiering Maatschappij O'Oranjeboom, plans to raise £15m in the Eurobond market.

Business appointments
Successor to chairman at Stenhouse Holdings
Mr John Stenhouse has been appointed chairman of Stenhouse Holdings in succession to Mr Gavin Stenhouse.

Slack demand and strike costs
push BOC below £11m

With industry generally in the doldrums demand has been slack and the group was handicapped by the four-week strike in the United Kingdom gas division—which cost it a total of £5m—of which £3m is accounted for in the first quarter results. Also, exchange rate fluctuations reduced profits by £900,000.

Gains on gilts bring
Gillett to fresh peak

In common with the other discount houses, Gillett Brothers had by far the most profitable year in its history in 1977. That net profits after undisclosed transfers to inner reserves rose only from £469,000 to £1.01m compared with the eightfold increase at Alexander's, for instance, is due partly to the fact that with a January year-end, the previous year's figures caught the first wave of the turnaround in the money markets and partly to the fact that recovery elsewhere from the knocks of 1976 was rather more pronounced than at Gillett.

With minimum lending rate plunging from 12 1/2 per cent at the start of the year to a low point of 5 per cent in mid-October, the lion's share of profits came in the shape of capital gains on gilt-edged holdings in the first half. Gillett also claims, however, that it saw the sudden rise in MLR to 7 per cent in November and unlike some of the other houses had run down its holdings to a minimum.

As forecast at the time of the rights issue the dividend goes up to 23p a share gross, where the yield at 227p is just over 10 per cent.

metals and metalsheld businesses. Trading profits for the three months were reduced by a charge of £1.3m for extra depreciation provided ahead of further asset revaluations which are planned before the end of the current year. In the second quarter, gas and engineering are looking better and a spokesman said that the figures for January looked more hopeful.



Bland Payne Group international insurance and reinsurance brokers, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, again turns in record profits with the pre-tax for the year to September 30, increasing by 44 per cent to £21.5m.

However, Mr Neil Mills, chairman, (above) does not believe that the current year will see such continued rapid growth. Economic factors, especially the strengthening pound, will adversely affect the sterling value of overseas income. A depressed marine market will also affect income. But overall he still remains confident of a good year.

The funds will repay some foreign currency borrowing and also increase investments outside the United Kingdom.

Coral now has over
25pc of Pontin's

Shareholders in Coral Leisure gave their approval yesterday for the takeover of the Pontin's holiday camp group. They did this by passing the resolution to increase Coral's authorized capital from £7m to £10m, which was necessary to allow the completion of the takeover. Acceptances have already been received from shareholders holding 19 per cent, which, together with the undertakings from the Pontin's board make over 25 per cent of the capital.

United International
Bank slips back

United International Bank, the London-based consortium bank, saw pre-tax profits decline from £1.7m to £1.6m in the year to end-December. Earnings were hit by the lower sterling value of the bank's foreign currency assets and profits from medium-term lending were pulled down by lack of loan demand and narrowing of spreads. Meanwhile the balance sheet total has also slipped, mainly as a result of a rise in 1976 at £222.5m. Apart from expansion in the Middle East, UIB is putting more emphasis on fee-generating business, such as investment management and the primary Eurobond market.

Plantation
tops £4m
despite late
setback

In spite of some problems in the second half of 1977, Plantation Holdings still managed to push its pre-tax profits for the year up by 17 per cent to a record £4.12m.

But as the first-half figures were more than doubled to £2.52m, this points to a decline of about 31 per cent in the last six months. Sales for the year expanded by 27 per cent to £34.54m. The pre-tax total is after charging interest up from £159,000 to £164,000.

A breakdown of profits (before charging interest and tax) shows that the Malaysian plantations improved their contribution from £2.1m to £2.52m, while United Kingdom operations were up from £1.77m to £1.77m.

The board explains that the plantations' second half was affected by low crops, a fall in prices after the first six months and the stronger pound.

As far as the United Kingdom side is concerned, light engineering slumped from £530,000 to breakeven, just £8,000, in fact. Meanwhile, scientific instruments was up from £847,000 to £1.06m and the consumer and video division continued its recovery, turning round from losses of £94,000 to surplus of £694,000.

Calling light engineering's breakeven "disappointing", the directors explain that good performances by Imhof-Bedco Standard Products and the newly formed Imhof-Bedco Slides were offset by losses in Imhof-Bedco's new venture in France, initial losses in Imhof-Bedco Precision Engineers and by a "very poor" showing in Imhof-Bedco Special Products.

Group profits earnings on the current basis of making no provision for deferred tax reached £2.44m, against £1.79m on the same basis for 1976. Profits transferred to revenue reserve jumped from £774,000 to £1.45m. Earnings per ordinary 10p share are almost a third higher at 6.1p.

Dunbee-Combex aims to revive
US acquisition Aurora

Toymaker Dunbee-Combex-Marx is to pay \$11.5m (£5.9m) for the toy and hobby business of Aurora Products, the Nabisco subsidiary.

Aurora has not made a real profit for the past three or four years, suffered a \$7m deficit in 1976 and is budgeted to have incurred a similar deficit last year.

Consequently DCM is paying a significant discount on book assets of \$20m and the consideration stands to look even lower when revaluations of properties in subsidiaries reveal the expected surplus. Further, the deal will be substantially self-financing since DCM is

putting down 20 per cent of the price at the outset with four equal annual instalments to follow. While, like all United States companies, Aurora can offer no tax losses to smooth the way toward earnings growth, DCM is confident it can repeat the success achieved with Rovex, whose Hornby, Scalextric and Sindy offshoots are now substantial contributors to overall profits.

"We expect to break even in 1978", DCM joint managing director, Mr Basil Feldman, said yesterday, and hope to be making profits in 1979. He intends to simplify the company's operations and save overheads by moving Aurora's head-

quarters in with those of Louis Marx in Connecticut. Aurora leads the United States market in the slot racing field with its Aurora AFX Road Racing series, and DCM intends to concentrate on this line. Royalty income, worth some \$600,000 last year, is expected to rise by at least 20 per cent in 1978 with projected licences in Australia and New Zealand coming on stream. One of DCM's quoted United Kingdom competitors, Berwick Tempo, has enjoyed a good deal of success with its Aurora slot racing franchises. These have a further two years to run and Mr Feldman commented yesterday, "Like it or not, we have to honour these commitments".

Nicholas to maintain upswing

International

Nicholas International, the Melbourne-based manufacturer of pharmaceutical, military, medical and scientific equipment, announced a continued improvement in both sales and profits for the half-year to end-December 1977.

Sales increased 13.3 per cent to \$A69.2m (about £40.7m). This was against \$A61.1m in the similar period a year earlier. Operating profit before tax increased by 14.7 per cent (\$A5.9m).

The board states that the current rate of improvement in both sales and profit, which is in line with group objectives, should be maintained for the balance of the present year.

Zanussi buy-back plan

Industrie Zanussi spa, the Italian domestic electrical appliance group plans to buy back a 20 per cent parcel of its shares held by AEG-Telefunken after the German group announced its decision to sell its minority interest in the Italian company. A spokesman for Zanussi, said that negotiations were in an advanced stage. Reliable sources reported that the operation would cost Zanussi about 20,000 lire (about £11.3m), nearly the same

amount paid by AEG for the 20 per cent interest in Zanussi in 1973. The German group announced its plans to sell earlier this week. The decision had been long expected.

Honeywell Bull

Honeywell Bull of France and Philips Lamps subsidiary La Radiotechnique Comptel, have announced an agreement in the development and manufacture of high performance computer parts. Radiotechnique will initially supply Honeywell Bull with a range of rapid bipolar technology integrated circuits. No financial details were given.

Ciba-Geigy rights

Ciba-Geigy AG, the Swiss pharmaceutical group, has announced a one-for-45 rights issue priced at 200 francs per 100 franc nominal share and participation certificate. It also proposes a 1977 dividend unchanged at 22 francs. Group operating profit was £20m Swiss francs (about £82m) for 1977

against 320m Swiss francs in the previous year. Operating cashflow was 1,000m Swiss francs against 940m.

Carter Hawley

Carter Hawley Hale stores of Los Angeles is withdrawing its offer to acquire Marshall Field & Co. The company said it believed that the expansion programme announced by Marshall Field since February 1 had created sufficient doubt about Marshall Field's earnings potential to make the offer no longer in the best interest of Carter Hawley Hale's shareholders. Carter Hawley had at that time offered 0.95 Carter Hawley common share and \$22 to \$26.50 in cash for each Marshall Field common share.

Kloeker-Humboldt

Kloeker-Humboldt-Deutz AG, the West German engineering concern, reports external sales up by 11.4 per cent in 1977 to Dm3,900m (about £928.5m) from Dm3,500m in 1976. Parent company turnover totalled Dm2,900m in 1977 against Dm2,900m in 1976, with domestic orders off 1 per cent from 1976 and foreign orders up 20 per cent.

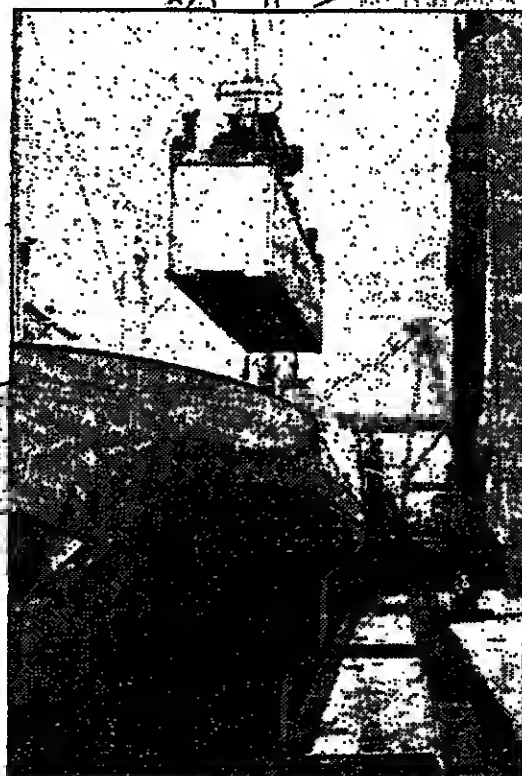
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Stock Exchange Prices

Another bleak day

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Feb 13. Dealings End, Feb 24. § Contango Day, Feb 27. Settlement Day, March 1.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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£5,000+ Appointments



CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

S.W. London C: £7,500 p.a.

Kango have an international reputation for high quality Electric Hammers and Generating Sets. With a substantial rate of growth achieved in overseas business and an increasing utilisation of data processing involving DDE 2903 systems, we require a well qualified and experienced Chief Accountant to be responsible to the Divisional Finance Director for the accounting and data processing functions of the company.

The person appointed will be a qualified chartered or management accountant with at least seven years post qualification experience in industry or commerce, preferably in an export orientated manufacturing environment using computer based systems.

Based in Wimbledon, responsibilities will include accounting activities of branch factories and depots in other locations in the United Kingdom. Salary and conditions of employment, including removal assistance, are commensurate with the importance of the position.

Reply in confidence to the Divisional Finance Director, Kango Electric Hammers Limited, 21 Lombard Road, Morden Road, South Wimbledon, London, SW19 3XA.

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electric hammers

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, Kew

ASSISTANT KEEPERS

to undertake a wide range of duties concerned with the preservation and use of the public records (accumulated over 9 centuries) as a research source. The work includes arranging and classifying the records, preparing guides and handbooks, supervising the public search rooms, studying problems of preservation and use of records and computer technology, and advising on the selection of records for preservation.

Candidates should normally have a relevant degree with 1st or 2nd class honours, or a postgraduate degree, and a good reading knowledge of at least 2 modern or classical foreign languages; but others with special knowledge or experience may also be considered.

Salary: as AK First Class, £5,200-£7,905 or AK Second Class, £3,130-£4,895. Level of appointment and starting salary according to age, qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 17 March 1978) write to Civil Service Commission, Alconon Ltd, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 88551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref. C/9322.

NORTH WEST INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

PUBLICITY OFFICER

£5,926-£6,577

The Publicity Officer is directly responsible to the Director for the effective organisation and implementation of the Association's publicity and promotional programme. His or her duties also cover other aspects of the Association's activities as required. Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons with appropriate experience preferably in the industrial development field.

Essential car user allowance. Local Government superannuation scheme.

Applicants should send details of age, education, qualifications and experience, together with names and addresses of two referees, to the Director by 10th March.

Job description available on request.

Clifford Chapman, Director,
North West Industrial Development Association,
Bracken House, Bracken House Street,
Manchester M2 5AZ.
Tel: (061) 834 6778.

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We are a fantastic go-ahead import and export company based in the city. We are looking to turn over £20m during 1978; are you the person to make this £25m?

We need sales people to assist our sales managers. We require self-motivated people, between the ages of 23-30 who are prepared to work hard for higher rewards. Suitable people will be smart, well-educated and have several years experience in selling consumer products.

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN OUR DYNAMIC TEAM WHY NOT RING US ON 01-588 0081 FOR AN APPOINTMENT

THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT THERAPEUTIC DIETITIAN

for Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau. Tax free salary of \$8,550-\$10,750. Three year contract. Successful applicant will have Bachelor degree or equivalent in dietetics with at least one year's experience.

Application forms and further details from The Bahamas High Commission, 39 Pall Mall, London SW1V 5JG. Telephone 01-930 6967.

NALGO requires: Accountancy Assistant

Salary £5,797-£6,361 p.a. Applicants must be qualified accountants.

Staff restaurant. Minimum 26 days' leave and additional leave at bank holidays, partial mortgage interest rebate. Pension scheme (contributory).

Requests for application forms and further information should be sent to:

The General Secretary,
National and Local Government Officers Association,
1 Mableton Place, London, WC1H 8AJ.
Closing date: 10th March, 1978.

Site Engineers

IRAQ

Taisei Corporation (engineering and construction) of Japan is presently engaged in a Power Plant Construction Project near Basra, Iraq.

The project manager is seeking to engage 2 site engineers (construction) with U.K. background and training. Candidates should have previous experience of similar projects in the Middle East, since the appointment will entail the supervision and control of local labour.

Period of appointment is 1 year. Salary is negotiable, but the successful candidates can expect very attractive remuneration commensurate with their experience. Conditions of employment will be similar to those normally offered by U.K. companies to their own expatriates.

Since the Project Manager will be conducting interviews in London, on 1st, 2nd and 3rd March, applicants should write immediately enclosing details of previous experience to:

Mr S. Wakasugi,
MARUBENI CORPORATION,
New London Bridge House,
London Bridge Street,
S.E.1 9SW.

FOR IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT

Engineering Company Home Counties

Chief Executive

Chartered Accountant

Chief Inspector

Applicants should be fully qualified and experienced in their particular field. Knowledge of Aircraft Del. Sian, requirements would be an advantage. Industrial experience essential.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Please write, giving full details, to The Chairman, Box 0765 K, The Times.

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(LONDON BASED)

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Working directly under the General Manager, his assistant will be based in all facets of the business and must possess sufficient business flair and common sense to assume management control within two years.

A substantial salary will be paid plus bonus incentive scheme and other benefits.

Apply to Mr. M. J. Childs,
Director of Personnel
MAPLE & CO. LTD.,
140 Hemsley Road, London NW1 2PL.

The Museum of London

Assistant Director

(Museum Services)

Applications are invited for this new post from persons with considerable administrative experience, preferably in a museum or kindred institution. The person appointed will be responsible for the work of departments concerned with administration, security, technical services and commercial operations.

The salary will be in the range of £7,561-£8,404 (including London Allowance).

Further details may be obtained from the Director, The Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 5HN, to whom applications should be sent by 13 March 1978.

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situated in Wiltshire have a vacancy which offers a board appointment.

Starting at a salary of £6,500 minimum, the person appointed will, after a trial period, assume responsibility for the total factory operation including production control, personnel and some customer liaison.

Applicants should be between 35/45 years of age and have some experience of factory management.

Suitably qualified persons should write in confidence giving full details of experience, qualifications and present salary to Box 2038 J, The Times.

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Major Oil Group with massive involvement in Sea Operations wish to appoint a qualified ACCA or ACA. You will report directly to the Controlling Chief Accountant and be responsible for monthly expenditure, budgeting and planning, exploration accounts, currency investments and improved general systems. Excellent prospects in return for sound experience, preferably from an allied industry.

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(Recruitment Services)

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NON-SECRETARIAL

INTERIOR DECORATOR

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Receptionist

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ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY (S.W.1)

required for Royal College of Physicians. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the secretariat, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR NUMERATE ADMIN. PERSON

This small, civilised company is looking for a well educated, numerate, and efficient person to take over the day-to-day running of the company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

BRIGHT PEOPLE WITH PERSONALITY

Men and women, aged 20-25, required as drivers/guides for a tour of the city. Must be able to drive a car and have a good knowledge of the city. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

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Capable person with good education and experience in the field of recruitment. Must be able to interview and negotiate with potential candidates. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

PUBLISHING ASSISTANT

required for a new publication. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the publication, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

THE ECONOMIST Art Department

requires a person with a good knowledge of art and design. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the department, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN IN THE INVESTMENT FIELD

is offered to a young person with a good knowledge of the investment field. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the department, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

PROD FOLLOW, London's most important children's magazine

requires a person with a good knowledge of the children's magazine industry. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the magazine, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

EMBASSY TELEPHONIST

required for a new embassy. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the embassy, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

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required for a new architectural firm. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the firm, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

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new company with a bonus scheme. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the company, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

TEMPORARY SECRETARY

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SWEDISH SEC. with ph. in English

and Swedish. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the company, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

COLLEGE LEADER for Kensington

based in Kensington. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the college, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

NON-SECRETARIAL

S.R.N.

Urgently required for W.I. Nursing Agency. Must have administrative experience. Salary in excess of £4,000 + benefits. Telephone: Leslie Gowcott on 888 0341.

Zoological Society of London

requires

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO ESTABLISHMENT OFFICER

to undertake a range of duties concerned with the personnel administration of a staff of over 500. Candidates should have a good standard of education, preferably to graduate level, previous relevant experience and knowledge of current legislation. Essential qualities are: numeracy, initiative, fluency with the written word and meticulous attention to detail. Starting salary £4,250. Applications in writing giving full details of age, qualifications and experience, together with names of two referees, should be submitted by 13th March to Establishment Officer, Zoological Society of London, Regents Park, London NW1 1JY.

THE MARIE CURIE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Applications are invited for: THE MATRONSHIP For Edeburgh, Hymers, which is a post-natal care unit for mothers, dedicated to the care and education of young mothers. The basic salary scale is £4,250-£5,250 p.a. plus benefits. Applications in writing giving full details of age, qualifications and experience, together with names of two referees, should be submitted by 13th March to Establishment Officer, Zoological Society of London, Regents Park, London NW1 1JY.

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Family of four. Hand 2. Wanting to return to work. 2 years' experience. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the company, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

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work for young people in non-profit. Tel: 01-588 0081.

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new company with a bonus scheme. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the company, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

TEMPORARY SECRETARY

required for a new company. Must be able to handle the day-to-day running of the company, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

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A leading firm of international investment managers requires a secretary to one of the directors based in London. A salary of approximately £5,750 + bonus will be paid in addition to 4 weeks holiday, free BUPA scheme etc. Telephone or write to: Gerald Dean, G. T. MANAGEMENT, Park House, 16 Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.2. Tel: 01-528 8131.

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£4,000. This super company are looking for a good Secretary who will be able to handle the day-to-day running of the company, including the examination of applications for membership, the preparation of minutes, and the organization of the annual conference. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. For further details contact: 537 8822.

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An International Organization Marketing Headquarters in London (Holborn) has a number of interesting vacancies for

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Candidates should write with brief details or for an application form, quoting reference SEC/PA.

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1478 1978

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The successful candidate will perform the secretarial duties, including audio typing shorthand. She, or he, will also be expected to assist with research on new projects, submit manuscripts, deal with authors and artists cooperate with the design, production and promotion staff.

A degree or teaching certificate is essential. Teaching experience at Primary level and some experience of editorial work is desirable.

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Motoring

How Bordeaux got rid of traffic jams

In the French city of Bordeaux traffic jams are a thing of the past, rush hour journey times have been cut by half and road casualties are down by two thirds, thanks to an electronic system of traffic control introduced just under two years ago.

The system delights in the acronym of Gertrude who is, appropriately, the patron saint of urban travellers. It involves using traffic lights to ensure that roads receive no more traffic than they can comfortably bear. Covering about four square miles of the city centre, it operates mainly during the evening rush hours.

The planners identified four critical road junctions and installed computers at each. Sensors in the road tell the computer the number of vehicles using each lane and their average speed. This information, which comes in every half second, is analysed and the traffic lights are operated accordingly. A central computer determines overall strategy.

The principle is similar to that of locks on a river. Each section of road is allowed to take only a certain number of vehicles and if the traffic threatens to become too heavy it is held back. Vehicles are not allowed to proceed to the next section until it is clear enough to take them.

The system can therefore overcome the difficulties which would otherwise arise when six lanes of traffic have to be squeezed into a single lane. It is the centre of a wine-producing area, the traffic department is quick to seize on the analogy of the neck of a bottle.

Priority for buses
Buses are allowed priority within the scheme. There is a special corridor (not quite like the British bus lane since it can be used by other traffic) which enables buses to jump a queue of waiting vehicles. As buses get to the end of the corridor, the computer turns on a green light marked "bus" four seconds before the normal traffic light appears.

But absolute priority is reserved for emergency vehicles—fire, police and ambulance. In the case of a fire call, the officer presses a button to alert the computer, which in effect clears a path through the city for the fire engines, allowing traffic to revert to normal when the last engine has passed. A one-mile run from the fire station to the river takes only one minute 40 seconds.

Gertrude has two basic aims: to promote a steady flow of traffic and make the maximum use of available road space. On the first point, the Bordeaux authorities have set an average speed target for vehicles using the city centre of 40 km/h (25 mph). Immediately obvious, it can only be achieved by a combination of speed limit, side door mirror and the absence of central window pillars. But there can be no complaint about fuel economy, my range being 28 to 35 miles to the gallon.

Most Renaults are distinguished by a soft ride and handling in match. The 17 has a firmer feel. Handling is tauter, with less bodyroll on corners, even if seconds. On average, journey times have been reduced by half.



Sporting comfort—the Renault 17 TS.

Road Test: Renault 17 TS

As to better use of road space, the number of vehicles per hour making the north-south riverside journey before Gertrude was 2,670 and is now 4,400. Going the other way, the same road takes 4,300 vehicles an hour today, against 3,100. Accidents involving injury on this road over comparable four-month periods have dropped from 33 to 11.

Not the least impressive statistic is that project Gertrude was budgeted at 20 million francs and came in at four million (about £450,000). The main saving was achieved by doing without cameras to record the traffic but the computers are almost as efficient.

Unlike the ill-fated zone and collar experiment in Nottingham, the Bordeaux system is not anti-car. To the contrary, it gives priority to public transport, it recognises that cars are here to stay and tries to accommodate them. Driving a car in the centre of Bordeaux must be a lot more pleasant than it was a couple of years ago.

Road Test: Renault 17 TS

The Renault 15/17 coupé belongs to a group of cars—other examples are the Ford Capri, Volkswagen Scirocco, Opel Manta and Toyota Celica—which are essentially sporting offshoots of the competent bread-and-butter sedans.

The important components, from the engines downwards, are taken from other models and the trick is to make the bodyshell sufficiently different to disguise this fact.

In the case of the Renault, the floorpan, suspension and running gear come from the 12; and the 16/17 engine used in the 17 TS is the same unit, with a slightly higher power output, as that in the 16 TX and the 20 TX. But on the road the car is quite distinctive, a clearly styled two-door, sleekback, and perhaps more to the point it feels different from any other Renault.

Indeed the sportiness of the 17 is more a matter of looks and of taut handling than performance. Neither acceleration through the gears (0-60 mph in 12 seconds) nor top gear flexibility is exceptional for the size of car, though in today's conditions generally adequate. The top speed is just over 100 mph.

The engine, quiet at low revs, sounds harsh when driven hard and though the use of the fifth gear—the five-speed box is standard—cuts 70 mph cruising to a relaxed 3,400 rpm, any mechanical noise is easily drowned at this speed by wind. The source is put the city centre of 40 km/h (25 mph) immediately obvious, it can only be achieved by a combination of speed limit, side door mirror and the absence of central window pillars. But there can be no complaint about fuel economy, my range being 28 to 35 miles to the gallon.

Most Renaults are distinguished by a soft ride and handling in match. The 17 has a firmer feel. Handling is tauter, with less bodyroll on corners, even if seconds. On average, journey times have been reduced by half.

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casting

If Thames's new series of Robi n's Nest lacks perhaps originality, it has at least two warm funny stars - Tessa Wyatt and Richard O'Sullivan. Part Two of this week's thriller Rachel in Danger will be magnet enough for those who saw Tuesday's opening half-hour. Omnibus's Warsaw Autumn is an all-too-rare television report on the arts, particularly music, in present-day Poland. As good as one expects from Humphrey Burton - I.R.R.

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